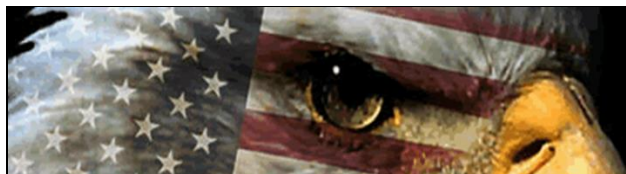



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Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	11/08 Clash, arrests over China Covid rules
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/health-china-business-covid-guangzhou-8be527e2f33e9baa79b57360909aaac9
GIST	<p>BEIJING (AP) — Police in northeastern China said that seven people have been arrested following a clash between residents and authorities enforcing COVID-19 quarantine restrictions.</p> <p>The violence comes as China reports new cases nationwide, with 2,230 cases reported Tuesday in the southern manufacturing and technology hub of Guangzhou.</p>

While the numbers remain relatively low, China has relentlessly pursued its strict “zero-COVID” policy of quarantines, lockdowns and daily or near-daily compulsory testing.

A news release from the police department in the Shandong city of Linyi said public security would take strong measures against those who “illegally violated the legal rights of personal protection of citizens.”

Anti-pandemic measures have prompted backlashes across the country, forming a rarely seen challenge to Communist Party authority. It wasn’t immediately clear who was arrested after the clash. News of the arrests appeared on social media Tuesday morning, but were erased by the country’s censors before noon.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has made “zero-COVID” a hallmark of his administration, which gained a boost last month after he was granted a third five-year term in power and promoted loyalists to top positions.

Those include the former party leader of Shanghai, where a draconian lockdown over the summer led to food shortages, confrontations with authorities and severe disruptions to global supply chains that have grown dependent on Chinese manufacturing and shipping.

While the rest of the world has mostly opened up, China has taken only highly cautious minor steps, with its borders still largely closed and officials under heavy pressure to enforce restrictions.

China reported its trade shrank in October as global demand weakened and anti-virus controls weighed on domestic consumer spending. Exports declined 0.3% from a year earlier, down from September’s 5.7% growth, the customs agency reported Monday. Imports fell 0.7%, compared with the previous month’s 0.3% expansion.

Speculation about a possible relaxation of “zero-COVID” roiled markets, but the government has kept its plans, including the possibility of importing foreign vaccines, a closely held secret.

Last week, access to the industrial zone where a factory that manufactures Apple iPhones is located was suspended for one week following a surge in infections in Zhengzhou and the departure of workers from the factory. Many climbed fences and walked along highways to avoid being placed in quarantine centers where food, sanitation and privacy standards have been heavily criticized.

Apple announced Sunday that customers will have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models, saying the Foxconn factory in the central Chinese city Zhengzhou is “operating at significantly reduced capacity.”

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HEADLINE	11/09 Ukraine villages: heavy fighting, shelling
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-europe-business-moscow-government-and-politics-4ee517ebe3304721cf8f38c1b73c34d0
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Villages and towns in Ukraine saw more heavy fighting and shelling Wednesday as Ukrainian and Russian forces strained to advance on different fronts after more than 8 1/2 months of war.</p> <p>At least nine civilians were killed and 24 others were wounded in 24 hours, the Ukrainian president’s office said. It accused Russia of using explosive drones, rockets, heavy artillery and aircraft to attack eight regions in the country’s southeast.</p> <p>Ukrainian and Russian forces also clashed overnight over Snihurivka, a town about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the southern city of Kherson. Ukraine’s army hopes to reclaim the Russian-occupied city, the only regional capital captured during Moscow’s February 24 invasion and a key target of an ongoing counteroffensive.</p> <p>Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Kherson region’s Kremlin-appointed administration, said in a Telegram post that the Ukrainian army had “gained a foothold” along a railway line in Snihurivka’s north. In a separate post, he claimed Russian forces had repulsed the Ukrainian advance.</p>

The Kherson region is one of four provinces of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed and subsequently placed under Russian martial law. The Russian military has concentrated much of its firepower on securing control of the others - Luhansk, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia.

Earlier this week, Ukrainian [President Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#) reiterated that the return of all occupied territory was [a condition](#) for any peace talks with Russia. The Kremlin is unlikely to give up its internationally unrecognized claim to the regions annexed in September or to Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014.

The president's office said widespread Russian strikes on [Ukraine's energy system](#) continued. Two cities not far from Europe's largest nuclear power plant were shelled overnight, it said. More than 20 residential buildings, an industrial plant, a gas pipeline and a power line were reportedly damaged in Nikopol, which lies across the Dnieper River from the the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Further west, in the Dnipropetrovsk region, the Ukrainian governor reported "massive" overnight strikes with exploding Iranian-made drones that wounded four energy company workers in the city of Dnipro.

"Attacks on civilian infrastructure are war crimes in themselves. The Kremlin is at war with Ukrainian civilians, trying to leave millions of people without water and light (for them) to freeze in the winter," Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said on Ukrainian TV.

In a related development, a senior Russian security official arrived in Iran for high-level talks late on Tuesday, Russian media reported.

News of the trip by Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the powerful Russian Security Council chaired by Putin, came days after Tehran admitted that it had supplied Moscow with the explosive-laden drones, after weeks of official denials.

A Washington-based think tank linked Patrushev's visit to likely discussions over the possible sale of Iranian surface-to-surface ballistic missiles to Russia. The Institute for the Study of War said late Tuesday that the Kremlin was "continuing efforts to covertly acquire munitions for use in Ukraine, to mitigate the effects of international sanctions and backfill Russia's ongoing depletion of domestic munitions stockpiles."

The increasingly close military and political cooperation between Moscow and Tehran at the time of the war in Ukraine has worried the United States and other Western powers.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Russia troops slam incomprehensible battle
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/08/europe/russia-ukraine-donetsk-heavy-losses-letter-intl/index.html
GIST	<p>Russian troops have denounced an "incomprehensible battle" in Donetsk after apparently sustaining heavy losses during a week of intense fighting in the key eastern region of Ukraine.</p> <p>Moscow has been trying to break through Kyiv's defenses around the town of Pavlivka for at least the past seven days, but it seems to have made little progress with as many as 300 men killed in action, according to an open letter published on a prominent Russian military blog on Monday.</p> <p>The men of the 155th Brigade of the Russian Pacific Fleet Marines launched stinging criticism against a senior Russian official in a rare display of defiance, accusing authorities of "hiding" the number of casualties "for fear of being held accountable."</p> <p>The letter, purportedly sent from the front lines to a regional Russian governor, came amid Moscow's shaky offensive in a region President Vladimir Putin claimed to have illegally annexed just over a month ago.</p>

“Once again we were thrown into an incomprehensible battle by General Muradov and his brother-in-law, his countryman Akhmedov, so that Muradov could earn bonuses to make him look good in the eyes of Gerasimov (Russia’s Chief of the General Staff),” the men said in the memo, sent to the governor of Primorsky Krai.

“As a result of the ‘carefully’ planned offensive by the ‘great commanders’ we lost about 300 men, dead and wounded, with some MIA over the past four days.

“We lost 50% of our equipment. That’s our brigade alone. The district command together with Akhmedov are hiding these facts and skewing the official casualty statistics for fear of being held accountable.”

They implored Governor Oleg Kozhemyako: “For how long will such mediocrities as Muradov and Akhmedov be allowed to continue to plan the military actions just to keep up appearances and gain awards at the cost of so many people’s lives?”

‘The blood keeps spilling’

Russian military commentators have also criticized the army’s approach in Donetsk.

“The situation in Pavlivka has been discussed at the highest level for several days, and the blood keeps spilling,” Aleksandr Sladkov, a Russian military journalist working for All-Russian State Television and Radio, said on Telegram.

“Troops say that there is a dilemma now: exhausted units cannot be withdrawn without fresh ones being brought in. There are no fresh units and no possibility of withdrawal and replacement due the constant firing,” Russian military journalist Alexey Sukonkin, also posted on Telegram.

“Why did we retreat from Pavlivka and have to recapture it now?” Aleksander Khodakovsky, a Russian-backed commander from the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic, said in criticism of Moscow’s tactical approach to the region.

Khodakovsky said Russian troops had been using basements as defensive positions, which meant they had not seen a flanking movement by the Ukrainians.

“That’s why quite a few Marines, including company commanders, were taken prisoner then. Not because they were weak in spirit, but because they were held hostage by their organization of defenses,” Khodakovsky said, adding that Ukrainian reconnaissance troops had used high-rise buildings in nearby Vuhledar and cameras fixed to the top of mine shafts to guide artillery strikes.

“The defenders of Pavlivka will again be taken hostage. Supplies and rotations will be difficult, it will be impossible to move through Pavlivka,” he said.

CNN cannot verify how many soldiers signed the letter nor their ranks, but Governor Kozhemyako confirmed he had received a letter from the unit.

“We contacted our Marine commanders on the front lines. These are guys who have been in combat since the beginning of the operation,” the governor said on Telegram.

Kozhemyako added the combat commander had emphasized that the deaths of the (Primorsky) troops were considerably exaggerated.

“I also know at first hand that our fighters showed at Pavlivka, as well as during the whole special military operation, true heroism and unprecedented courage. We inflicted serious damage on the enemy.”

Kozhemyako said the complaint made by the soldiers had been sent to the military prosecutor’s office.

Russia's defense ministry issued a rare public response to criticism of the military operation in Donetsk, denying that its forces suffered "high, pointless losses in people and equipment."

Russia's losses in the area of Vuhledar and Pavlivka in the Donetsk region "do not exceed 1% of the combat strength and 7% of the wounded, a significant part of whom have already returned to duty," the ministry claimed Monday, Russian state media agency TASS reported.

'Epicenter' of the battle

[Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky](#) said the fierce battle for Donetsk "remains the epicenter of the biggest madness of the occupiers" and refuted Kozhemyako's claims that Moscow's losses were "not that big."

"They are dying in hundreds every day," Zelensky added. "The ground in front of the Ukrainian positions is literally littered with the bodies of the occupiers."

Noting that the governor was some 9,000 kilometers (around 5,500 miles) from the frontlines, Zelensky said: "The governor probably can see better from there how many military men and in what way are being sent for slaughter from his region. Or he was simply ordered to lie."

Social media and drone videos in the past few days show numerous Russian tanks and other armored vehicles being struck around Pavlivka, which is about 50 kilometers southwest of Donetsk and has been on the front lines for several months.

The Ukrainian military released footage showing two Russian T-72B tanks and three BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles struck by Ukrainian artillery and anti-tank systems, with senior officials referencing repelled attacks of intense shelling in the area.

"The enemy is losing the opportunity to implement their plans," Oleksii Hromov, deputy head of Ukraine's Operations Directorate of the General Staff, said Thursday.

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HEADLINE	11/09 Russia navy stranded after Black Sea attack
SOURCE	https://www.thedailybeast.com/vladimir-putins-fierce-russian-navy-stranded-in-hiding-after-black-sea-attack?ref=home
GIST	<p>The Russian Navy is still sheltering in its base in Crimea after a sweeping Ukrainian drone attack last week.</p> <p>On Oct. 29, Ukraine launched 16 air and naval drones at Russian ships in the bay of Sevastopol, causing damage to at least one ship and leading Russia to temporarily pull out of the lauded grain export deal in retaliation. According to a recent analysis by the U.S. Naval Institute, Russia's fleet in the Black Sea has been timid since the attack, which is the latest in a series of setbacks since the invasion in February.</p> <p>Russia's Black Sea Fleet dwarfs the remnants of the Ukrainian Navy and should by all accounts be able to launch missiles and amphibious landings off Ukrainian shores with relative impunity. But for all their strength on paper, the Russian navy has gone from disaster to disaster since the start of the war.</p> <p>In March, Ukraine hit a Russian landing ship in the port of Berdyansk with a ballistic missile, forcing the crew to scuttle the vessel. Ukrainian forces also sank the Russian flagship Moskva with two anti-ship missiles in mid-April. While not as spectacular as sinking a flagship, Ukrainian missiles and drones destroyed smaller Russian naval vessels throughout the conflict.</p> <p>Russia has a large navy, but its losses in the Black Sea are difficult to replace.</p> <p>Moscow cannot simply send more ships to the Black Sea, since Turkey controls the straits leading from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and has the legal right to restrict access during wartime. Turkey's</p>

refusal to let naval vessels through means that the vessels currently there are all Russia has in the short term, and is why the Oct. 29 drone attack was so detrimental. Ukraine was able to put a large number of explosive drones near Russia's prized vessels, including one Kilo-class submarine. While it isn't clear how much damage was inflicted, that any of the drones were able to penetrate Russian defenses makes it uncertain if Russia's ships are truly safe when not in port.

That drone attack was the first time air and sea drones attacked simultaneously in this conflict, but both had been used in the area separately. Ukraine's one-way attack drones, which have seen infrequent use since June against Russian military and oil facilities, targeted the Russian Black Sea Fleet headquarters in mid-August. In September, a previously unseen Ukrainian Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) washed up on a Crimean beach. Using both at once was an attempt to overwhelm Russian defenses and complicate future efforts to defend Crimea.

USVs, even if they don't end up doing much damage, are a tricky problem for navies to deal with. In the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia has struggled to prevent USVs operated by Houthi rebels from reaching their ports. The need to defend ships and ports from cheap USVs and other fast-attack craft is part of the reason the U.S. Navy has invested so heavily in directed energy weapons and why the U.K. procured Martlet missiles for its ships and helicopters.

To make matters worse for Russia, Ukraine's Navy is slowly starting to grow again. Ukraine is receiving patrol boats from the United States and the Royal Navy is training Ukrainian sailors. The patrol boats are small and lightly armed, but they can still help Ukrainian naval and Special Operations forces along Ukraine's rivers and coastline. Given Ukraine's unexpected successes at sea, its partners are likely to continue and increase their support. And considering Russia's struggles to adjust to new threats on land and sea, Moscow will struggle to cope with the growing threat of Ukraine's missiles, drones, and new vessels.

Ukraine's innovative use of missiles and drones to fight the Russian Navy has made it challenging for Russia to operate at sea. The strategy has helped Ukrainian soldiers and civilians on land while keeping the grain export deal alive. Without good options for preventing future attacks and an eroding grip on the Black Sea, the Russian Navy will likely stay cautious.

The U.S. Naval Institute analysis notes that Russia's smaller patrol boats have recently been replaced by larger vessels more capable of stopping attacks, and some vessels have been moved from Sevastopol to Novorossiysk, which is further from the fighting.

The naval war is nowhere near won. Russia still has a much larger navy and can still launch missiles such as the Kalibr at Ukrainian cities from its vessels. Ukrainian missiles and drones might be able to seriously damage Russian ships, but sinking Russian ships will be difficult if Moscow decides to keep them out of range of Ukraine's missiles at sea, and defended from drones when in port.

Still, for all Russia's advantages, it's unlikely that Putin and his admirals will find an easy answer to Ukraine's strikes any time soon.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Retailers push big holiday discounts
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/retailers-push-big-holiday-discounts-to-ease-inventory-avalanche/
GIST	<p>Bloomberg - If last year's holiday shopping season was characterized by empty store shelves and a race to meet demand in a healthy U.S. economy, very different concerns have emerged just 12 months later: overabundance and sinking sales.</p> <p>American retailers are sitting on so much inventory that brands — particularly for apparel and housewares — have resorted to listing their goods on resale websites, hosting sample sales, giving stuff to employees, offering deep discounts and even throwing goods away.</p>

This period of plenty's seeds were sown last year, when demand for merchandise was soaring but clogged supply chains caused long delays. Fearful of shortages, retailers including Gap and Nike ordered extra and did so earlier than usual, but a combination of poor forecasting and inflation-stung shoppers created massive gluts.

The overhang is leading to canceled orders, a sharp slowdown in global trade growth and stagnating factory activity. On one hand, it's good that logistics networks are seeing relief from the logjams that plagued the start of 2022 — ocean-shipping rates have tumbled close to pre-pandemic levels and delivery times are shortening.

But most supply chains don't perform well during rapid turns in either direction, and now the snapback to a surplus of transport capacity is dimming prospects for companies including rail operator Union Pacific and container-shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk.

While retailers such as Kohl's and Nordstrom expect to whittle down much of their bloated inventories by year-end thanks to increased promotions, analysts and warehouse operators say it will likely take most of next year to wring out the excesses.

The pain is rippling upstream. In the U.S., the number of warehouse and storage jobs fell in October by 20,000, the most since April 2020, government data showed on Friday. Some workers, including those in the garment-manufacturing industry, are experiencing reductions in overtime hours and a decrease in take-home pay.

Figures released on Monday showed Chinese exports fell for the first time in more than two years in October. Last week, the trade ministry of Vietnam — a popular alternative to China's exports in recent years — warned of a significant drop in the number of orders products including sneakers and smartphones.

"There's a double-whammy phenomenon going on where companies might experience pressure on their margins because of a lot of the discounting and promoting that's going to happen, and they're also going to experience pressure on the margins because at the same time that prices are coming down, costs are still high," said Jay Sole, analyst at UBS Group. "That's something that Wall Street's very worried about."

L.A. warehouses

Mountains of merchandise are parked in places like Southern California. The vacancy rate for warehousing space in the Greater Los Angeles area — home to the two largest ports in the U.S. — sits at 0.2%, compared with the typical 4% to 6% this time of year, according to Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka.

"You're going to be buying different products on the retail shelves and online between now and the holidays than are in those warehouses — the latest games, the latest tech, the latest fashion," Seroka said in a recent interview. "How do you flush the inventory that's been sitting in these warehouses for some time?"

The problem is acute for mass-market brands that cater to low- and middle-income Americans who are increasingly feeling the hit from higher inflation, devoting more of their budgets to necessities like food and utilities.

Apparel-industry sales are expected to decline by 1% in the final three months of this year, compared with 21% growth in 2021, according to data from NPD Group.

Traditional inventory-management methods like discounting and pack and hold — a strategy where retailers hold products in warehouses and bring them back for another season — are already being used widely.

In earnings calls in the past month, executives at brands including Vans owner VF Corp., Levi Strauss & Co., and Container Store Group all pointed to a holiday season with deeper promotions than in recent history.

“In a promotional environment in the marketplace, it’s going to be all around us,” VF Chief Financial Officer Matt Puckett said on Oct. 26. “And we certainly expect that’s going to have some impact on our business.”

But the latest Logistics Managers’ Index shows inventory and warehousing costs remain stubbornly high, so discounting alone isn’t enough.

Companies are getting creative when it comes to liquidating excess merchandise.

“I have some clients that are asking: Can we throw away stuff? Can we give it to our associates? Can we recycle it?” said Jeff Havelka, CEO of Beyond Warehousing, a third-party logistics company based in Kansas. “They just don’t want to pay to store it anymore.”

Havelka said retailer orders are down as much as 30% over last year, but inventory is up as much as 50% which is “tying up their cash and their credit.” A number of his clients are offloading their inventory at a loss, he said.

“There are some companies that are probably going to die here because they weren’t dynamic enough to make it through this and were focused on the wrong things,” Havelka said.

Other brands are resorting to resale platforms including Poshmark, ThredUp and Etsy-owned Depop to list excess inventory, said Josh Kaplan, co-founder of Ghost, an online marketplace where retailers can anonymously list excess inventory for sale. Some Ghost clients are turning to store pop-ups or sample sales to offload their goods, he said.

To prevent their stockpiles from getting any larger, retailers in some cases have deferred orders from suppliers, said Liana Foxvog, director of supply-chain strategies at the Worker Rights Consortium.

Kontoor Brands, owner of Wrangler and Lee jeans, said on Nov. 3 that it is using downtime at its plants to control inventory levels.

Smaller paychecks

A slower pace of inventory growth in the coming quarters is likely to be a drag on U.S. gross domestic product, further contributing to concerns about an economy on weaker footing. Deferred or canceled orders also impact the labor market, leading to fewer hours or jobs for workers through the supply chain.

“We are hearing that there has been a decrease in workers’ take-home pay, and that’s due to cutting in overtime hours,” Foxvog said of garment workers specifically. “In many places, workers are working less total hours per month and therefore taking home less money.”

The longer-term impact of the current inventory overload will become clearer in the next month when the majority of public U.S. apparel and home goods brands report third-quarter earnings and provide an update on inventory growth.

“Even just in the past three days, we’ve seen some of the biggest or most valuable brands in the world contact us for help with excess inventory,” Kaplan said. “It’s a full tidal wave at this point. We need the customer to be spending, and until that happens, the product’s not going to move.”

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SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/social-service-workers-rally-at-seattle-city-hall-over-proposed-budget-cuts/
GIST	<p>Dozens of human services workers rallied at Seattle City Hall plaza on Tuesday morning, calling for the city and King County to adjust their wages to keep up with inflation and to preserve homelessness services that could go away as one-time federal funding expires.</p> <p>Staff from major homelessness and social service organizations held signs that read “I do essential work” while chanting “Poverty wages have got to go!”</p> <p>As the city and county approach finalizing their budgets later this month, funding for the hundreds of workers who provide homelessness and other services to the region’s most vulnerable has emerged as one of the most contentious issues. The city is staring down a forecast that has predicted fewer and fewer revenues as the year has progressed, as well as skyrocketing inflation. Federal coronavirus relief funding is also set to expire at the end of the year.</p> <p>A city law passed in 2019 was supposed to ensure that front-line social service workers’ wages would continue to increase with inflation in these times. But the mayor’s proposed budget rolled that promise back.</p> <p>People who work on the front lines to serve homeless people and the community’s most vulnerable populations say depressed wages are creating a bottleneck in the region’s homelessness response as service organizations are struggling to attract talent and existing staff are leaving for financial reasons.</p> <p>Sophie Rice-Sauer, a housing case manager at homeless services nonprofit Compass Housing Alliance, attended Tuesday’s rally. She said that the current staffing shortage in the homelessness sector is stretching the capacity of existing workers like her. She and her co-workers don’t have as much time to spend with their clients, which lengthens the amount of time they stay at the shelter before transitioning to permanent housing.</p> <p>“People don’t deserve to be there six months,” Rice-Sauer said.</p> <p>At the same time, Rice-Sauer says she barely makes enough money to cover her expenses, while others say they can’t do even that.</p> <p>“We don’t exist just to sell our labor,” Rice-Sauer said.</p> <p>Human services workers like her often make about \$40,000 to \$42,000 a year. Seattle’s median income is more than \$110,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Three of the region’s largest homelessness service organizations have more than 300 vacant positions.</p> <p>King County has struggled to find enough workers to open hotels it purchased in the last year to house homeless people. Seattle officials say that projects in the city have struggled with the same issues.</p> <p>Seattle law requires the city to keep wages for human services workers in line with inflation. In 2019, then-Councilmember Bruce Harrell voted with the entire Seattle City Council to create that law, even adding an amendment to do so “in both periods of economic growth and in periods of economic hardship.”</p> <p>But in September, Harrell, now mayor, proposed limiting wage increases for human services workers to 4% for the upcoming budget and all future budgets in a decision his administration described as “particularly difficult.” Inflation has averaged 7.6% over the past year according to a local measure the city uses. The cap on wage increases would save the city almost \$20 million over the next two years as it faces stagnating revenue.</p> <p>Harrell’s spokesperson Jamie Housen wrote that the mayor’s budget was an attempt to bridge the city’s \$140 million revenue gap, but said the mayor welcomes collaboration with the City Council to address</p>

the “fundamental issues” impacting human services workers. He also wrote that the city could not afford to replace all of the one-time federal funding without “significant cuts to other ongoing programs and urgent community priorities.”

Several service organizations, which are contracted by government agencies, said they already funded inflationary wage adjustments for their workers expecting that the city would follow its own law and reimburse them for those costs.

It’s about more than wages too, said Alison Eisinger, executive director of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness. She said service organizations are also struggling to pay increased costs for insurance and utilities.

Since then, council members such as budget chair Teresa Mosqueda and Lisa Herbold have proposed budget amendments that would provide the full inflationary adjustment for human services organizations and replace expiring pandemic relief funding for homelessness services with city funds. That would cost almost \$30 million over the next two years.

Both Mosqueda and Herbold spoke at the rally Tuesday morning. Mosqueda said the city’s law to tie service provider contracts to inflation is the bare minimum necessary to support front-line human service workers.

“What we will not be doing is walking back on our promise. What we will not be doing is cutting your wages,” Mosqueda said. “We cannot care for our most vulnerable if we do not care for you.”

Herbold said that providing anything less than an inflationary wage increase, which she views as a cut, would disproportionately affect women who fill the majority of social service positions.

Mosqueda has suggested using higher than anticipated JumpStart tax revenue, collected from businesses with high-earning employees, as a way that the city could fund essential programs while balancing its budget in the short-term. Mosqueda and Harrell have created a work group to identify new progressive revenue sources going forward so the JumpStart tax can be used for its primary intent of building more affordable housing and climate initiatives.

After the city and county released their budget proposals in September, King County Regional Homelessness Authority wrote a memo warning that \$9.4 million in state and federal funding for homelessness services including shelter, rapid rehousing and outreach were set to expire.

The authority said 20 programs at 12 agencies would lose an average of 40% of their funding. Some organizations used the one-time funding to expand from a day center into a full-time shelter, while others added capacity to their shelters. An authority spokesperson said it was difficult to estimate how many shelter beds would be impacted because the service organizations would be in charge of implementing any budget cuts.

“With thousands of people still sleeping outside, we cannot afford to reduce essential services,” the authority wrote in the memo.

Rally supporters have also called on King County to help replace the authority’s expiring funding in addition to preserving the Health Care for the Homeless Network, which provides medical, dental, substance abuse and behavioral health care to people experiencing homelessness. County Executive Dow Constantine and budget chair Joe McDermott did not respond to questions by deadline.

The program has existed for decades, and received a boost in one-time funding to contend with the pandemic. Now with funding expiring, the county plans to reduce its staffing for the program by 75%. Service workers say that the pandemic is not over, and there are many health needs contributing to the 135 homeless people who have died in King County this year and the 196 homeless people who died last year.

	<p>Chloe Gale, co-director of REACH, a city-contracted homelessness outreach team, spoke in front of Metropolitan King County Council members Tuesday morning at their budget meeting warning that the health of homeless people impacts the rest of the community.</p> <p>“This public health response during the COVID pandemic crisis has been really critical to sustain the health of all of our communities, particularly our homeless service providers,” Gale said.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 Veterans race to train Ukraine troops
SOURCE	https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2022-11-09/ukraine-american-veterans-train-troops-7972157.html
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine — On the last day of February, four days after the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, former U.S. Army Ranger Patrick Creed walked up to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and knocked on the door.</p> <p>He said he felt nervous and stupid and didn’t quite know what to say, but when a woman behind bulletproof glass asked what he wanted, Creed responded, “I’m here to volunteer for the army.”</p> <p>A Ukrainian colonel at the time warned the five other Americans filling out paperwork at the embassy with Creed enlisting them in a new international legion for foreign fighters that they were signing up for something they had never experienced in the U.S. military, the former major remembered.</p> <p>“You’re not going to fight in an American war,” the colonel told them. “The Russians have control of the air, we don’t. The Russians have 10 times as much artillery.”</p> <p>“You will get hit with Russian rocket artillery,” the colonel emphasized.</p> <p>Creed, 54, was unfazed.</p> <p>“I didn’t join the Army for the dental benefits,” he said. “I like the zing.”</p> <p>For two months in the spring, Creed found that rush on battlefields around the Black Sea, where he mainly fought in a “static trench warfare kind of situation.”</p> <p>Today, Creed said he finds it in the remains of a half-constructed, Soviet-era sanatorium in a village outside Ukraine’s capital city Kyiv, where he trains Ukrainian soldiers for urban combat.</p> <p>Nine members of the Territorial Defense Forces, Ukraine’s equivalent of a local militia, milled around the abandoned property on a recent November afternoon. They ran up and down cement stairs with no railings, broken glass crunching under their feet, as they practiced clearing rooms, securing areas and throwing grenades.</p> <p>On breaks, trainees share the outdoors with a flock of geese and a tabby nicknamed Combat Cat. Sometimes the neighbor’s goats get to their lunch before they do.</p> <p>Creed and Fred, a former Marine Corps sergeant who declined to provide his last name, have been teaching this group — almost all of them related through blood or marriage — for a couple weeks.</p> <p>Their efforts are part of a broader crash-course training program created by the Mozart Group, a U.S. veteran-led private security company founded in March by retired Marine Col. Andrew Milburn. Named as a dig at the Russian mercenary organization the Wagner Group, the Mozart Group also performs evacuations at the front lines and has grown its staff to nearly 30 personnel of highly experienced trainers made up of mostly former American service members.</p>

“We give them what we can as fast as we can, but they really need six months,” Fred, 44, said of the training. “There’s only so much you can do, and that’s the real struggle.”

The last four units that he taught went to the front lines just three days later. The Territorial Defense Forces are meant to guard checkpoints and provide other local security, but a June law made it possible for them to be sent into battle, said Erik, director of training for the Mozart Group and a 54-year-old retired Army Special Forces lieutenant colonel.

“These [Ukrainian trainees] are the guys who were pharmacists yesterday,” he said, also declining to provide his last name for security reasons. “This is the most underfunded, under-resourced and undertrained organization.”

This particular group of trainees might have had a more close-up view of the war than many in Ukraine. They reside about 5 miles from Irpin and Bucha, towns that have become synonymous with Russian atrocities committed in the early days of the invasion.

Andrey Kashlakov, 25, said he evacuated more than 1,000 people, including about 20 Ukraine National Guard soldiers and hundreds who were injured, from neighboring towns as Russian forces advanced on Kyiv in March. Blood pooled in the bus that he once used to transport construction supplies, he said.

Later, Kashlakov drove out to villages up to 90 miles away and delivered bread and other food to grateful grandmothers. He said he was running on adrenaline and never scared, finding some security from the gun he carried and a stint five years ago in the Ukrainian army.

He had kept all his military-issued clothes and equipment knowing that a larger war was coming. Today, he patrols his home village Horenka for marauders but waits for something worse.

“Maybe the Belarusians will attack so it’s best to be prepared,” Kashlakov said, pointing to a renewed military buildup in Ukraine’s northern neighbor. He happily volunteered to throw a blue training grenade when Fred offered the opportunity.

The Ukrainian trainees reveled in the loud bang of the dummy weapons.

“They went boom!” they said, laughing.

Creed said instructors try to keep the mood light and do their best to instill confidence. Some of the soldiers trained by the Mozart Group have been killed fighting the Russians, and the burden is heavy, he said.

“We want to leave them feeling not like Superman but maybe like Batman or Robin,” said Erik, who teaches military decision-making procedures.

At a National Guard military base 15 miles away, two American veterans instructed soldiers on how to move as a team and react to gunfire as they inched toward a low-slung building painted in camouflage. The sound of soldiers shooting rocket-propelled grenades echoed in the background.

Every morning at the training site begins with basic weapons handling and medical drills so the act of reloading a gun or using a tourniquet becomes muscle memory, said Chris, a 27-year-old former Army specialist from Ohio who served as a medic and arrived in Ukraine a month ago.

“I feel like it’s making a difference,” he said, declining to provide his last name. “Every day these guys show up they’re motivated to learn, and every day you see some semblance of improvement from previous days.”

Ukraine’s National Guard is operated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, not the Ministry of Defense, and as a result receives a fraction of the Western support that flows to the regular army, Erik said.

The Mozart Group has trained every branch of Ukraine's armed forces, but its strongest relationship is with the guard members, especially the National Guard's 1st Presidential Brigade, he said. A Russian missile hit the unit's headquarters within the first 24 hours of the February invasion, killing a staff duty officer, Erik said.

A crew continued working on repairs to the building's damaged cafeteria in early November.

Soldiers here are taught by U.S. veterans and Ukrainian instructors who interpret and adjust American tactics to fit a Ukrainian fighting force that is still shedding its Soviet past.

A 27-year-old Ukrainian soldier and instructor who goes by the call sign "Legion" said his country is waging war on the battlefield and within its own ranks, constantly hunting for saboteurs and informants for Russia. The communication methods championed by the American veterans are not very employable when there are enemies within the ranks, he said.

"You cut off one head and two more grow in its place," Legion said.

Other incongruities also crop up, including some techniques that seem geared for younger and more experienced soldiers, and most guard members and Territorial Defense soldiers are neither, he said. Americans are also offering input on a type of war that they have not fought in many years, he said.

"Fighting against terrorists is easier than fighting against those lobbing artillery," Legion said. "Americans have never encountered an enemy willing to level towns and forests. This opponent is different ... he will use civilians and civilian infrastructure to fight."

The nature of this conflict, one that is reminiscent of World War II, has been one of the main draws for American veterans working in Ukraine.

"I think for a lot of us, it's kind of like the good war we've been waiting for," said Roman, a 46-year-old former Army infantry captain who declined to provide his last name. "Afghanistan and Iraq were a lot more ambiguous — whether we should've been there, or as long as we were, and we were always living among people we were not sure wanted us there. This is very morally unambiguous. I wouldn't say it's good versus evil, but it's normal people with all their problems and complexities against evil."

Roman deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division before moving 10 years ago from his native New York to Ukraine, the birthplace of his parents. He was in the process of returning to the U.S. when war broke out and briefly thought of staying to fight.

A desire to stay out of danger for the sake of his wife and two young children ultimately kept Roman out of the fight. After settling them in the U.S., Roman joined the Mozart Group last month and is now teaching planning, patrolling and command and control.

"This training opportunity was about the right size for me," he said, looking around at the dozens of guard members performing exercises in front of him. "Even though you don't get the immediate satisfaction that you might from doing an operation on the front, you are influencing a lot of people."

Creed also wrestled with the pull of the battlefield. He left Ukraine in late May and spent the summer at his home just outside Philadelphia fighting the urge to go back. A fellow American volunteer he knew — Marine Corps veteran Willy Joseph Cancel — was killed in southern Ukraine, and another — retired Marine and Iraq War veteran Grady Kurpasi — went missing. His survivor's guilt was strong.

"You want to go back and keep fighting," Creed said. "After three weeks in Ukraine, I have and will probably always have such a deep and visceral hate for the Russians."

In a compromise with his family, Creed agreed to return to Ukraine as a trainer in September.

It doesn't have the thrill of combat, but he finds fulfillment in it for other reasons: the fun of swapping dark military jokes with Fred and other vets as they ride in a van, and the novelty of teaching in a strange, graffitied building with unfinished windows and Ukrainian school books strewn on the floor.

"I like working with soldiers who are enthusiastic like this, even though I don't speak the language," Creed said.

Alla Golumbiivska, 28, followed Creed as he showed Territorial Defense members how to carefully move up a stairwell and cover each other as they cleared floors of the building.

"Nyet," Creed told her in Russian when she forgot to conceal herself at the cutout of a window.

Golumbiivska worked as a dog groomer before dressing in fatigues and carrying an Airsoft rifle. She fled to Poland with her 8-year-old daughter in early March, leaving behind her husband, the commander of a local defense unit, to patrol their village.

Ten homes were destroyed on their street, Golumbiivska said, but the town of Horenka was spared the worst of Russia's spring offensive in the north as invading forces sought to capture Kyiv.

She returned to Ukraine after six months, fearless and with a hunger to learn how to protect her loved ones.

"I don't want war, I don't want to fight but I want to defend my home, my land, my child and my husband," she said. "I want to be ready."

Training with the Mozart Group has become a family affair, and Golumbiivska was joined on recent sessions by extended relatives, including Kashlakov's father and mother.

"Whenever there are tough moments in life, we come together," Golumbiivska said.

Kashlakov said it can be difficult, and weird, to learn alongside his elderly parents "but they have the will, and that's important."

Fred, one of the U.S. trainers, peered out at the odd group as another day of training got underway recently and asked what they wanted to learn.

"Do you have specific things that you want to be trained on today, related to any topics?" he asked. "Shooting and fighting around vehicles? Procedures for using grenades? How to secure a building? Anything at all?"

"All of them," the trainees replied. "All the topics you mentioned are interesting for us."

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HEADLINE	11/09 China locks down manufacturing hub
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/health-china-beijing-covid-ae19fbd6dcd4976bcc5fe736421849d8
GIST	<p>BEIJING (AP) — A surge in COVID-19 cases has spurred lockdowns in the southern Chinese manufacturing hub of Guangzhou, adding to financial pressure that has disrupted global supply chains and sharply slowed growth in the world's second-largest economy.</p> <p>Residents in districts encompassing almost 5 million people have been ordered to stay home at least through Sunday, with one member of each family allowed out once per day to purchase necessities, local authorities said Wednesday.</p>

	<p>The order came after the densely populated city of 13 million reported more than 2,500 new cases over the previous 24 hours. Public transport has been suspended and classes halted across much of Guangzhou, while flights to Beijing and other major cities have been canceled, according to state media.</p> <p>China has retained its strict “zero-COVID” policy despite relatively low case numbers and no new deaths.</p> <p>The country’s borders remain largely closed and internal travel and trade is fraught with ever-changing quarantine regulations.</p> <p>The tight restrictions have sparked occasional clashes between residents and local Communist Party officials, who are threatened with punishment if reported cases in their areas of jurisdiction climb above levels deemed acceptable.</p> <p>The party under the leadership of President Xi Jinping has dismissed calls from the United Nations’ World Health Organization to ease regulations, refused to import foreign vaccines and defied requests to release more information about the source of the virus, which was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Iran accused in plot kill 2 journalists in UK
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/08/media/iran-british-journalists-uk-intl-hnk/index.html
GIST	<p>Two British-Iranian journalists working in the United Kingdom have been warned by police of a “credible” plot by Iran to kill them, according to their employer, London-based news channel Iran International.</p> <p>In a statement Monday, the Farsi-language broadcaster said it was “shocked and deeply concerned” by the alleged lethal threats, while accusing Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of being part of a “significant and dangerous escalation” of Tehran’s “campaign to intimidate Iranian journalists working abroad.”</p> <p>“Two of our British-Iranian journalists have, in recent days, been notified of an increase in the threats to them,” Iran International said in the statement. “The Metropolitan Police have now formally notified both journalists that these threats represent an imminent, credible and significant risk to their lives and those of their families.”</p> <p>Iran International did not name the journalists for security reasons.</p> <p>The IRGC is a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces, founded after the Iranian Revolution in 1979 by the order of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It is designated by the United States as a terrorist organization.</p> <p>Iran International has become one of the go-to sources for many Iranians looking for news on the protests following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini – a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman detained by morality police for allegedly not wearing her hijab properly.</p> <p>“These lethal threats to British citizens on British soil come after several weeks of warnings from the IRGC and Iranian government about the work of a free and uncensored Farsi-language media working in London,” the news channel added in its statement.</p> <p>Iran International said other members of its staff have also been warned by the police of separate threats, according to the statement.</p> <p>“We hope that the UK Government, international governments and other organizations will join us in condemning these horrific threats and continue to highlight the importance of media freedom,” the statement added.</p>

London's Metropolitan Police told CNN they would not comment on matters of protective security in relation to any specific individuals.

"We would advise anyone with concerns over their safety to contact police so that officers can assess the situation and offer any safety and security advice as and where necessary," the police said.

The IRGC could not be immediately contacted when CNN reached out for comment.

The Iranian government has labeled Iran International as a "terrorist organization," Iran's state-aligned news agency ISNA reported Tuesday, citing the country's information ministry.

"The International Network has been recognized as a terrorist organization by Iran's security apparatus and its operatives will be wanted by the Ministry of Information, and from now on, any kind of connection with this terrorist organization will be considered as entering the terrorist domain and threatening national security," the ministry said, according to ISNA.

CNN reached out to Iran International for comment.

Iran International's protest coverage

Founded in 2017, Iran International has been at the forefront of covering the recent demonstrations with exclusive footage of events on the ground. Its Twitter account has more than a million followers.

The 24-hour news channel has previously come under scrutiny by the Iranian government for its coverage.

In 2018, Iran International released a statement denying connections to any government, including Riyadh or Tehran, after British newspaper The Guardian reported it was funded by a firm whose director has ties to Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

In October, Iran said it sanctioned a number of media outlets in the UK for "supporting terrorism" and "inciting violence," the state-aligned Tasnim news agency reported.

The sanctioned entities included what Tehran referred to as "anti-Iranian TV channels" such as Iran International, Tasnim reported.

Journalists in Iran have also come under pressure by Iranian authorities, including facing imprisonment and arrests.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said that as of Monday at least 61 journalists have been arrested in Iran for reasons including covering the protests, reporting on the death of protesters, and taking photos of demonstrations, according to a report from the organization.

Meanwhile, in a Twitter post Tuesday, Kurdish human rights group Hengaw Organization for Human Rights said the IRGC "has increased its threats against Hengaw members in recent days," following the death of a Kurdish Iranian woman that sparked a wave of protests in the country on Sunday.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Flu spread compared with Covid?
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-does-flu-spread-compared-with-covid-what-to-know-as-flu-cases-surge-11667882271?mod=hp_listc_pos3
GIST	<p>When my 14-year-old son tested positive for flu recently, questions ran through my mind that didn't occur to me before the coronavirus pandemic. Should we run for our masks? Pump up the air purifier? Remind our 9-year-old to time her hand-washing to "Happy Birthday"?</p> <p>Covid-19 has given us all a crash course in viral transmission and prevention. We know far more than we ever wanted to about how the virus that causes Covid spreads, how long it can incubate in the body and what</p>

[kind of masks are most effective](#). That new awareness has made some of us ask similar questions about other viruses now that respiratory illnesses like [flu and RSV are surging](#).

So how much do we really know about how flu spreads and how it compares with the virus that causes Covid? Here's what scientists say.

How flu spreads

One of the big questions at the beginning of the Covid pandemic was how the virus transmits. Was it mainly through contact with contaminated surfaces? Was it droplets spreading when you're close to an infected person? Or was transmission largely through aerosols, smaller particles that can be emitted and inhaled through talking and breathing, and which can linger in the air even after a contagious person has left?

We eventually learned that [tiny aerosol particles are a major way](#) Covid spreads, which is why indoor spaces are so much riskier than outdoor ones—because the particles fill up and linger in the air.

What about flu?

Most scientists agree that influenza is transmitted most commonly through the air, but there is disagreement about whether the main vehicle is aerosols or droplets.

Some scientists who study aerosol particles say flu mainly transmits through these tiny particles rather than through the larger droplets. That would mean you can get infected just by being in the same room with a contagious person—even far away—rather than having them sneeze on you or emit droplets while talking in proximity to them.

Studies show that aerosols containing influenza virus are infectious for more than an hour, says John Volckens, an environmental health professor at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., who studies aerosols.

Some infectious-disease doctors and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [say that influenza is spread](#) most often through droplets emitted from sneezing, coughing or talking, which requires closer contact with an infected person, usually within 6 feet.

“The closer you are, the easier it is to get flu,” says Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious-disease specialist at the University of California, San Francisco.

[Some studies suggest](#) that most flu transmission is largely through short ranges, notes Dr. Chin-Hong. But a 2013 study in Nature Communications [found that aerosol spread](#) might account for about half of all household influenza transmissions, he said.

The CDC guidelines say that surface transmission of flu—by touching a contaminated surface such as a doorknob or table—is less common but possible. It is still a good idea to wash hands frequently, doctors say.

How contagious is flu?

[Covid-19 is more contagious](#) than influenza, doctors say. One reason is that most people have had flu multiple times and many have gotten multiple [flu shots](#) over the years.

The most common calculation of a virus's infectiousness is a measure called the R0 (pronounced “R naught”). This metric estimates how many people one contagious person will infect on average. The R0 of influenza is between one and two. R0 data for Covid-19 isn't definitive, especially as the virus continues to mutate, but studies indicate the number for many Covid strains is higher than for flu.

When are you contagious with flu?

The CDC and many doctors say you are likely contagious with flu a day before you develop symptoms, which can include a fever, congestion, cough, sore throat, headache, body aches and fatigue. Doctors also

say it is possible to be infected with influenza and never develop symptoms, and that asymptomatic people can still transmit the virus to others.

Up to half of flu infections may be asymptomatic, says Dr. Chin-Hong, but people with such infections probably transmit less efficiently. A 2021 study in the Lancet Global Health [found that asymptomatic individuals transmitted the flu](#) to only about 6% of household contacts.

The incubation period for influenza—the time between when you get exposed to a virus and when you develop symptoms—is about one to two days, says Seema Lakdawala, an associate professor in the department of microbiology and immunology at Emory University who studies flu transmission.

Like people with Covid-19, those with influenza start shedding virus before they develop symptoms and can be contagious before they know they are sick, says Dr. Lakdawala. People with influenza are most infectious early on in their illness, in the first two to three days after being infected, she says.

If you're older, have a chronic disease or are immunocompromised you may shed virus for longer.

Preventing the spread of flu

[Covid-19 precautions](#) also work against flu. Pandemic measures [largely quashed the flu](#) around the world for two years. Many of us aren't used to taking those same precautions for flu. Doctors say we should reconsider—but we may not have to be as rigid about it.

Studies show that influenza can spread easily within a household. If someone in your home tests positive for flu, have them isolate as best as possible, recommends Kristin Englund, an infectious-disease physician at Cleveland Clinic. Eating separately or having them wear a high-quality mask helps if strict isolation isn't possible. If they are unable to wear a mask, others in the household should do so to lower risk. And when you're in the same space, improve ventilation by opening the windows or running a HEPA air purifier.

Dr. Englund says schools and offices should re-evaluate their guidelines for returning after a flu infection. "It's safest to wear a mask as long as somebody is symptomatic," she says, as congestion and coughs can linger for days.

Masking in indoor spaces and avoiding large crowds in poorly ventilated indoor spaces are other smart precautions to take to combat flu during flu season, says Dr. Lakdawala. Most important, stay home if you have symptoms.

"Be thoughtful," says Dr. Lakdawala. "We don't need to take all the precautions that were maybe a little onerous during the Covid-19 pandemic, but we can still take some measures to help reduce risk in our communities."

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HEADLINE	11/08 West coast port labor talks stall
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/union-vs-union-dispute-stalls-west-coast-port-labor-talks-11667946087?mod=hp_minor_pos13
GIST	<p>A dispute between two unions over which workers get certain jobs at a cargo-handling terminal at the Port of Seattle is holding up labor talks between West Coast dockworkers and their employers.</p> <p>Shipping industry officials had hoped the talks, which began in May, would have concluded around now. Instead, officials say the discussions have stalled for about three months after dockworkers declined to discuss major contract issues pending resolution of the dispute at Seattle.</p> <p>The Seattle dispute pits the International Longshore and Warehouse Union against the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.</p>

The delay illustrates the extent to which [disagreements at one facility](#) can derail talks covering more than 22,000 dockworkers at 29 ports along the primary coast for U.S. trade with Asia.

The officials say that when bargaining resumes it will take many more months to resolve remaining issues such as wages and the use of [automated machinery on the docks](#).

Some shipping officials say they don't understand why the ILWU, which represents the dockworkers in the contract talks, is delaying the negotiations when there are big issues still to resolve. "Everybody is scratching their head," said one of the officials familiar with the negotiations. "To leave the table this long is very unusual."

The ILWU is negotiating with the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents about 70 employers including ocean carriers and cargo-handling terminals. The two sides have an agreement not to discuss the talks while they are continuing and both groups declined to comment on the delays.

Jonathan Gold, vice president for supply chain at the National Retail Federation, said the delays and uncertainty are a worry for importers who rely on the West Coast to bring in goods and who are already struggling with delays moving freight by rail.

"Folks are very concerned about the impact of any self-inflicted disruptions on supply chain and what that would mean and the ripple effect it would have on the economy," Mr. Gold said.

West Coast port labor talks are often fraught. The last time the talks dragged on through one year into the next, during 2014 and 2015, it resulted in container ship backups that caused significant delays to goods reaching stores. Importers are already diverting some goods to [Gulf Coast and East Coast ports](#) because of the risk of labor strife.

The port talks are taking place against a backdrop of [global freight labor unrest](#). Ports in the U.K. and Germany suffered sporadic closures earlier this year when dockworkers went on strike. Rail workers in the U.S. came close to [striking in September](#). Biden administration officials, including Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, are still trying to avert a walkout after some rail workers [rejected labor proposals](#).

West Coast dockworkers have been working without a contract since the most recent labor agreement [expired in early July](#).

Cargo-handling terminals are operating without grievance machinery in place to handle workplace disputes between dockworkers and their employers, which has led to sporadic disruptions at several ports, including at Tacoma, Wash., and Oakland, Calif. This summer, dockworkers at a Port of Los Angeles terminal operated by a subsidiary of A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S refused to work automated container-handling equipment for several weeks, citing safety concerns.

In the dispute at Seattle, the two unions say they both have jurisdiction to perform certain jobs at the port's major international cargo-handling facility at Terminal 5.

The most recent episode in the conflict, over which workers perform jobs connecting container ships at berth to onshore power, is the subject of a National Labor Relations Board hearing, which started Nov. 3. Some shipping industry officials had hoped the hearings would conclude swiftly, helping to resolve some of the interunion issues. But the hearing has been adjourned until the end of the month because of scheduling issues, according to an NLRB spokeswoman.

Some officials said they expect Mr. Walsh to get more involved in the port contract talks after [the midterm elections](#) and that they are hopeful the negotiations could resume soon.

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SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/3702985/violent-trend-school-shootings-seattle/
GIST	<p>The tragic trend of school shootings across the country has now reached western Washington.</p> <p>Suspect arrested after shooting at Seattle’s Ingraham High School</p> <p>Until today, the closest school shooting of 2022 was in Yakima. On March 15, one 16-year-old student was killed and an 18-year-old student was injured in a shooting in the parking lot of the school stadium.</p> <p>The issue has become so bad, that Education Week, a source for educators, now keeps track of all school shootings. It was last updated Oct. 31.</p> <p><i>There have been 40 school shootings this year that resulted in injuries or deaths, the most in a single year since Education Week began tracking such incidents in 2018. There have been 133 such shootings since 2018. Prior to 2022, the highest number of school shootings with injuries or deaths was last year when there were 35. There were 10 in 2020, and 24 each in 2019 and 2018.</i></p> <p><i>Latest Situation until today</i></p> <p><i>On Oct. 24, two people—a female teacher and a 15-year-old female student—were killed and seven students were injured in a shooting at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School in St. Louis, Mo. Read more.</i></p> <p><i>Source: Education Week</i></p> <p>US News and World Report said “Texas (is) leading the pack as the state with the highest number of incidents in the past 10 years.”</p> <p>According to data compiled by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., there have been 43 incidents in Texas, 41 in California, 37 in Illinois, 31 in Florida, and 26 in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>The trend of school shootings has been going up since 2012. That’s the year when 20 children and six adults died at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.</p> <p>The only exception to this trend was the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic when many school buildings were closed.</p> <p>According to USA Facts, “Thirty-two incidents from 2000 to 2020 occurred during school hours, including 18 when classes were in session, three during lunchtime, and 11 during school dismissal. In 2019–20, another 80 incidents happened at other times.”</p> <p>In the Yakima school shooting in March, The Yakima Herald-Republic reported: <i>Additional details have emerged in a fatal shooting outside Eisenhower High School last week, as the 15-year-old suspect was arraigned Thursday on murder and assault charges.</i></p> <p><i>During the arraignment hearing in Yakima County Juvenile Court, Judge Ruth Reukauf continued the suspect’s \$500,000 bail. He entered a not-guilty plea to second-degree murder, nine counts of first-degree assault, and one count each of second-degree unlawful firearms possession and carrying a firearm on school property.</i></p> <p><i>The suspect is accused of fatally shooting his cousin, 16-year-old Shawn Dwight Tolbert, during an altercation between two groups of teens in the high school parking lot March 15.</i></p> <p>Washington state has ranked near the bottom of states in regards to school shootings.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 CISA: minor tech, cyber issues bubble up
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SOURCE	https://therecord.media/cisa-official-no-credible-cyber-threat-to-election-day/
GIST	<p>Cyberthreats against the U.S. election have yet to materialize on Election Day, though some trouble spots have popped up around the country due to minor digital and technical issues.</p> <p>“We continue to see no specific or credible threat to disrupt the election infrastructure or Election Day operations,” a senior Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) official told reporters during the organization’s second Election Day media briefing. “We’ve seen no activity that should cause anyone to question the security, integrity, or resilience of our election infrastructure.”</p> <p>“We know in this environment, normal technical challenges can sometimes be misinterpreted to mean malicious activity,” the official added. “We have seen no indications to date that this is the case.”</p> <p>Several Republican politicians and pundits have pounced on voting machine issues in Maricopa County, Arizona — which became ground zero for disinformation and conspiracy theories around the 2020 presidential election — to stoke fears of a sinister plot by local election officials. Those officials later posted a video to explain the malfunction and assure the public that a fix was underway.</p> <p>The CISA official said the organization was aware of the problem with ballot scanners “and we’ve been in touch with officials at the state and county levels.”</p> <p>CISA hasn’t seen any evidence that foreign adversaries are spreading misinformation to take advantage of anger about technical issues, which have also occurred in Mercer County, New Jersey, the official told reporters.</p> <p>“Given what we know about these foreign actors, it would not be surprising if many of them were taking advantage of uncertainty or these very normal issues that go on in every single election and trying to amplify them as something nefarious,” the official said.</p> <p>The official said the agency hasn’t been tracking a reported Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack on the Champaign County Clerk’s Office in Illinois.</p> <p>“We will go back and look at Champaign and get in touch with them to see if there’s any issues... We have vendors sitting in the room with us, and they have not reported any issues at this time.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, U.S. Cyber Command and National Security Agency chief Gen. Paul Nakasone issued a statement saying his organizations “are committed to defending our electoral process from foreign threats.”</p> <p>“We continue to refine what we learned from the 2018 and 2020 elections,” said Nakasone, who led Cyber Command and NSA through both of those previous cycles. “We generate insight to enable defense of the homeland, and ultimately impose costs by degrading and exposing foreign adversary capabilities and operations.”</p> <p>“Americans can rest assured: thousands of your fellow citizens stand ready to defend your vote, every single day,” he added.</p> <p>In a statement, a spokesperson for Cyber Command and NSA’s joint election security task force, known as the “Election Security Group,” said the organizations have “24/7 ops centers” where personnel from both can share information about digital threats.</p> <p>As in previous elections, they also have “active chatrooms with our interagency partners and liaisons embedded in FBI, CISA and other operation centers,” the spokesperson said, adding “unclassified chatrooms with state and local entities” have also been established to share tips.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Seattle PD chief on staffing, violent crime
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SOURCE	https://www.knkn.org/law/2022-11-08/seattle-police-chief-adrian-diaz-talks-staffing-violent-crime-crowd-response-and-more
GIST	<p>Adrian Diaz is now in his second full month as the permanent chief of the Seattle Police Department. He was named to the position in late September, after serving as interim chief for two years during a tumultuous time.</p> <p>KNKX Morning Edition host Kirsten Kendrick visited Seattle Police Headquarters to talk with Diaz about his ongoing tenure and top issues for the department and the community it serves.</p> <p>Transcript <i>Note: This transcript is provided for reference only and may contain typos. Please confirm accuracy before quoting.</i></p> <p>Kirsten Kendrick (narration): Chief Adrian Diaz is now in charge of a department that he's worked in for more than two decades. And one of his first challenges is filling a lot of vacancies.</p> <p>Kendrick (interview): Chief, I wanted to start by talking about the need to hire more officers in the department. The staffing at Seattle Police Department is at a 30 year low. How is the recruitment process going?</p> <p>Chief Adrian Diaz: While we've had less people apply for the job, we've actually seen more diversity in our hires. This year alone, over 50% of the hires have been people of color. The one thing that we really, really need is actually more people applying and really seeing this job as a service job.</p> <p>Kendrick (interview): Crime is definitely a big concern among people who live in Seattle. What would you say to someone who does not feel safe in the city?</p> <p>Diaz: When people have that kind of internal feeling that it is not safe. Part of that is, is because, you know, sometimes when they walk out their door, they see graffiti. They see trash. They see debris. They see sometimes people in crisis. And I'm not saying that I'm going to be able to really fully change that. What we are looking at: the mayor's office has been working on a graffiti plan and we're also addressing violent crime. Around 2019, we were around 35, 36 homicides. We're at 50 this year. And so as I look at major cities across the country, they've also experienced the same level of crime spikes that we have as well. And we're all trying to understand why. And then also, the other issue that we run into, that we're seeing that spike is domestic violence. People's anxiety and people's stress level (have) really switched over the last two years.</p> <p>Kendrick (narration): The chief and I recorded our interview less than a week after the murder of well-known and well-loved Central District business owner D'Vonne Pickett, Jr. He was shot and killed in front of his mailing and shipping business, The Postman, in October. The suspect arrested in that case is also believed to be responsible for other shootings in the city. I asked the chief what he is doing to address gun violence and, after first stressing that it needs the community to be involved in finding a solution, he said police are analyzing data on hotspots, areas where violent crimes are happening or have increased. Then, he says there are ways to prevent these crimes, including looking at extreme risk protection orders.</p> <p>Diaz: So, how are we getting guns out of the hands of people that should not be ... they're not in a good place or mental state to actually be having guns. And so, you know, they might have a storage of guns. We want to make sure that people that we can get those guns. Sometimes it's domestic violence. Sometimes it's related to, you know, people in behavioral crisis. So whatever we need to be able to do to really try to make sure that we prevent guns coming in the wrong hands. We advocate for safe storage. And I've actually testified at the state level for, you know, good responsible gun legislation. And so that's where that prevention component is. Then we look at environment. So how do we actually make the environment more welcoming? So people are actually utilizing that space. So good lighting, cutting back brush, making sure that, you know, that people feel safe to walk down the street. And then the last part is enforcement. And so we actually are testing every single casing that we recover and every gun that we recovered to see if it's actually linked to other guns. But we actually have had around about 38% as well in guns that have been used in four cases or more. So those are those are the ones you really want to recover, because we</p>

know that that person is using it in multiple cases. And it's not just in our city. They're using it in Renton and Tukwila and Southcenter or Auburn or Kent. And we've actually had as far as even in Portland. We've lost 485 officers over the last couple of years. But I'm actually almost a 30 gun short of the recovery in the same amount of guns that I had when I had full staffing. But that just tells you the the amount of guns ... that are actually out there.

Kendrick (narration): Diaz became interim chief of the Seattle Police Department in September of 2020 following a summer of racial justice protests. The latest report on the city and police department's response to those protests cited, among other things, a lack of leadership. The Office of Police Accountability received 19,000 complaints about officers during the protests. The chief says when he took over, he created a community response group, fired some officers and changed the way the department manages crowds.

Diaz: So we haven't used a crowd control tool in two years. And that, right now already, it should show to the community just how I looked at and changing the dynamics of what we were going to do and how we responding situations. Over the course of the last couple of years, I've made close to almost two dozen terminations. And it's making sure that we honor that the badge means something to the community and that is building community trust.

Kendrick (narration): On the subject of building trust. I asked the chief about the federal consent decree that the department has been working under for a decade, following findings of excessive force and biased policing.

Diaz: As we actually looked at this year, we've actually been able to get ourselves back into compliance with the consent decree. I'm hoping that we're able to move the department out of the consent decree and work with the Inspector General and our accountability partners from OPA, Office of Police Accountability, as well as the Community Police Commission, where we can find ourselves in a place where, you know, we're very responsive to our accountability partners' needs and how we actually address the issues that are going on in the city.

Kendrick (interview): You came up through the ranks in the department here and served as interim chief in a very tumultuous time. What made you want to go for the job permanently?

Diaz: Yeah. So, you know, for me, I had this one opportunity to lead and I feel like I have a skill set that really helps kind of bring people together. I've already started launching a variety of initiatives for the department. We launched Seattle Police Before The Badge (<https://www.seattle.gov/police/community-policing/before-the-badge>). It is a 45 day program prior to a person becoming an officer, actually, coming into the academy. When you look at international recruits, London or, you know, Malta or New Zealand, many of their academies are one year, two, three years long. And and they don't give them a gun. And in our police ... in American policing, we spend four and a half to five months and we give them a gun hoping that we're going to have better outcomes. And so for me, it was spending more time really engaging community at the front end to really show that this is something that we value and that we really want to build those relationships to be, and SPD Before The Badge does that. And it focuses on social, emotional learning, brain development. It's engaging in listening sessions with communities that have felt trauma by a police department. And so that was something that that I wanted to launch right off, (at) the very beginning. You know, for me, it's really about, how do we actually work in a level community? And I feel like I have that skill set to really help bridge relationships and help really feel like the community has that connection with the police department.

Kendrick (interview): What will success as chief look like for you?

Diaz: When somebody comes in and says, Hey, you know, these officers did a fantastic job. They treated me with respect. They listened to me. They gave me, you know, that extra care. That is when I feel like that. That's my level of success. It ain't going to be some, you know, survey that's going to tell me, you know, people really like you or anything like that. But it's really where people on the ground feel like that we have changed the way we connected with people. Officers are still going out and doing police work

	and they're also making sure that that that they're being mindful of how their conduct is. And sometimes we're going to have we're going to have a situation because we hire from the human race that everything is not going to be perfect. But that's where the accountability piece comes into measure and that's where you end up addressing those issues.
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HEADLINE	11/08 Cities eye change police response 911 calls
SOURCE	https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/some-u-s-cities-want-to-change-how-police-respond-to-911-calls/article_eb6ddaf8-5f43-11ed-aff5-47884526d0f6.html
GIST	<p>(The Center Square) – Sparked by the murder of George Floyd in June 2020 by Minneapolis Police officers, some cities are working to find ways to have less civilian interaction with their police departments.</p> <p>Part of this "reimagining" of how police departments interact with civilians is a trend to have less of a police response to low-level 911 calls.</p> <p>David Muhammad, executive director of The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, has been at the forefront of this reassessment and was hired by the city of Berkeley, California, and Seattle to review their emergency calls. He estimates that between 40% to 60% of 911 calls don't require a police response.</p> <p>"We don't need an armed officer to respond to a noise complaint call," Muhammad told The Center Square.</p> <p>Muhammad said that, generally, police agree with that. But he said cities face a learning curve as they move away from police responding to low-level calls such as an abandoned vehicle.</p> <p>In Seattle, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform reviewed 1.2 million 911 calls from 2017 to 2019. They reported that 80% of the police calls were for non-criminal events and only 6% were linked with felonies.</p> <p>Seattle shifted 911 calls away from the police department in June 2021 and transferred that responsibility to an independent Community Safety and Communications Center. According to the report from Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, the goal is to have 12% of the 911 calls be diverted away from a police response. The city gave examples such as a person-down call or low-level welfare checks as the types of calls police would no longer respond to. Durkan said in the memo police signed off on that plan.</p> <p>In Eugene, Oregon, the city has expanded its contract with an emergency response team that uses city vehicles to respond to 911 calls without police involvement. The 911 center dispatches the emergency response team, which includes a medic and an experienced crisis worker. The program is called CAHOOTS, which stands for Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets. According to the Eugene Police Department, the number of calls responded to by CAHOOTS has increased by 71% from 2014 to 2021.</p> <p>Newport County Community Mental Health in Rhode Island cited the Eugene CAHOOTS program and is modeling its own version of it, using a state grant to fund it. That pilot program would create two mobile crisis units.</p> <p>And in Berkeley, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform reviewed 358,000 calls for service from 2015-19 in the California city and found more than 81% of them were non-criminal events. The reform group said only 7.4% of the 911 calls were associated with felonies.</p> <p>The police reform organization recommended Berkeley establish an alternative to sending police on low-risk level 911 calls. The city of Berkeley's "reimagining police" task force said more analysis was needed before approving that recommendation.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 Misinformation hampers Uganda on Ebola
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/nov/09/misinformation-hampers-ugandas-battle-against-new-outbreak-of-ebola
GIST	<p>Standing a few metres away from the gathering at the Kassanda district offices in central Uganda, Sam Kassamba's face is a picture of disbelief.</p> <p>He has just figured out that the public meeting on Ebola he is attending is not about food distribution or when the 21-day lockdown imposed on Kassanda and Mubende districts will end.</p> <p>"If not taken seriously, Ebola can wipe out a whole district," Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda's minister of health, tells the crowd. Yet Kassamba remains unmoved.</p> <p>Not even the fact that 53 people have died of Ebola in Uganda and 136 have been infected since September seems to bother him. He then repeats one of the conspiracy theories making the rounds in the community. "I hear someone's grandmother died of old age, and they said that it was Ebola. Lies," he says.</p> <p>The Ebola outbreak was declared in Mubende on 20 September, sparking immediate concern among medical professionals because there is no vaccine for this strain of the virus. Cases of the Sudan strain have spread to the capital, Kampala, 150km from Mubende, with 18 cases confirmed so far – prompting the World Health Organization to update the country's risk level from high to very high.</p> <p>Bars, places of worship and entertainment venues in Mubende and Kassanda were closed last month and a curfew introduced.</p> <p>Fewer people can be seen on the streets of Mubende town, and there are fewer cars and boda-boda motorcycle taxis on the roads.</p> <p>The normally jostling market, known for its roadside grills selling plantain, and for stalls of beef and chicken, is silent. Occasionally, young people gathered in small shops and centres call out to passing vehicles to see if they finally have the food the government has promised to send to see them through the lockdown. Children in uniform can still be seen trekking to school on the roads.</p> <p>But coming so soon after the Covid pandemic, the outbreak and lockdown have been met with fatigue, which has morphed into indifference.</p> <p>Marion Logose, a nurse at Madudu health centre in Mubende, one of five Ebola treatment units set up to deal with the outbreak, is familiar with the views expressed by Kassamba.</p> <p>"They talk like that until they turn positive," she says. "Even as they sit here waiting for their results, they argue that this disease is a lie."</p> <p>The disbelief helps explain why the body of a Muslim man who died of Ebola and was buried by a team from the health ministry was then dug up and reburied by family and friends because he wasn't buried correctly according to Islam, putting them at grave risk of infection.</p> <p>"It is now OK, I have two Muslims on my burial team, this cannot happen again," says Godfrey Ekuka, who leads the burial team.</p> <p>Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, has blamed the rise in cases on people seeking treatment from traditional healers. But Mpuga Teribirye, the Uganda national inspector and chairperson of traditional healers in Mubende, refutes this. "As soon as I heard about the disease outbreak, I took it upon myself to make sure all my people were protected and not handling patients," he says. "In fact, no single traditional healer is sick."</p>

Annet Nampenjja's family were probably infected with the virus after she and her three-year-old son, who has special needs, visited a small clinic in Mubende at the end of September. The clinic had unknowingly just treated an Ebola patient. When the discovery was made, the clinic traced 500 people who were there around the same time and needed to be tested.

"I have never experienced anything like that," Nampenjja says of the ordeal that followed. Nampenjja, her husband, daughter and son all contracted the virus. Her daughter died. The rest of the family were bedridden for weeks.

"Look at my son's lips," she says, pointing at the pink scars on the visibly weak boy. "I know he had problems before, but at least my son had started walking, now he can't."

Nampenjja did not expect the stigma that followed after the family left hospital. "I have a shop at the trading centre in Madudu, people no longer come to buy anything from me because they think I have Ebola," she says.

Organisations working with the ministry, including Mildmay Uganda, a health NGO, and Unicef, are now offering support programmes for people discharged from hospital, as well as educating people on prevention and holding gatherings to help reintegrate survivors back into their communities.

"It starts with community engagement; telling people what to do in case they are exposed, showing them how it spreads and empowering them to make better decisions," says Alexander Chimbaru, public health emergency adviser to the WHO. "This starts from leadership, into communities and to individuals."

"The outbreak is still moving, but I trust Uganda to manage," he says. "When there was an outbreak of Ebola in Sierra Leone, the people that helped us set up the system were from Uganda. These are the same people here today."

Andrew Bakainaga, the WHO district health systems adviser in Uganda, says surveillance mechanisms are in place to track the disease. "We know that we cannot close borders. Most of these are porous and communities mingle freely. But we are ensuring that all the countries bordering Uganda have amplified surveillance, and should there be heightened risk, WHO is mandated to bring it to the attention of every member state."

Dr Daniel Kyabayinze, the director of public health at the Uganda ministry of health, confirms there are three potential vaccines that could be used against the Sudan strain of Ebola at various stages of review. Makerere University in Kampala is scrutinising the results.

"In the whole world, there are no approved vaccines for Ebola disease caused by the Sudan virus," says Kyabayinze. "For now, this outbreak will be managed without vaccines, like it was done last time."

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HEADLINE	11/09 Day 259 of the Russia invasion
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/09/russia-ukraine-war-at-a-glance-what-we-know-on-day-259-of-the-invasion
GIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volodymyr Zelenskiy said his forces would not yield "a single centimetre" in fighting for control of eastern Donetsk region after earlier insisting that restoration of Ukrainian territory and compensation from Russia were conditions under which peace talks could take place. "The activity of the occupiers remains at an extremely high level – dozens of attacks every day," Zelenskiy said. "They are suffering extraordinarily high losses. But the order remains the same – to advance on the administrative boundary of Donetsk region. We will not yield a single centimetre of our land."• The Ukrainian president said about 4 million people were without power in 14 regions plus the capital, Kyiv, but on a stabilisation rather than an emergency basis. Russian missile and drone

	<p>attacks have targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure for weeks as winter approaches when temperatures can drop as low as -20C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ukrainian military accused Russian troops of continuing to loot and destroy infrastructure in Kherson, where a showdown has been looming for weeks in the only regional capital Russia has captured since its invasion. "On 7th November, a convoy of trucks passed over the dam of the Kakhova hydroelectric station loaded with home appliances and building materials," a statement said. Russian forces were dismantling mobile phone towers and taking away equipment, it said. • Britain's Ministry of Defence said Russia was preparing new fortified lines deep inside territory it controls "to forestall any rapid Ukrainian advances in the event of breakthroughs". This involved installing concrete barriers known as "dragon's teeth" to stop tanks, including near Mariupol in the south to help safeguard Russia's "land bridge" to occupied Crimea even if Moscow loses other territory. • Zelenskiy called on Tuesday for an extension to the Black Sea grain export deal that lifted a Russian blockade of three major Ukrainian ports and eased a global food crisis. The accord, brokered by Turkey and the UN in July, expires on 19 November and looked in jeopardy in October when Russia briefly suspended its participation before rejoining. Ukraine also wanted the grain export deal expanded to include more ports and goods, and hoped a decision to renew the pact for at least a year would be taken next week, the deputy infrastructure minister said in a Reuters interview. • Pro-Kremlin forces in Russia are hoping that the Republicans win control of Congress, an outcome they believe could mean the Democratic president, Joe Biden, finds it harder to get military aid packages for Ukraine approved. But for now, few in Moscow expect the bipartisan US political consensus on Ukraine to crack, whatever the result of Tuesday's midterm elections. • Zelenskiy urged the US to stay united in its support and for US politicians to maintain "unwavering unity" and follow Ukraine's example "until peace is restored". • The US and Russia will soon hold talks on resuming suspended nuclear arms control inspections that had been put on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic and languished after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the state department spokesman Ned Price said. Negotiations on the inspections would take place "in the near future" under the terms of the New Start treaty and would not include any discussion of the conflict in Ukraine. • Zelenskiy has told world leaders they will not be able to tackle the climate crisis unless Russia's invasion of his country ends. "There can be no effective climate policy without the peace," he said in a video address at the Cop27 UN climate summit in Egypt. • The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, will join next week's G20 summit "if the situation is possible", his Indonesian counterpart, Joko Widodo, who is hosting the meeting, said on Tuesday, adding that Putin could attend virtually instead. On Monday the Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said Putin would decide by the end of the week whether he would attend. • Zelenskiy will take part in the G20 meeting in Bali, most probably attending virtually, his spokesman has told Suspilne, the Ukrainian public broadcaster. Previously the Ukrainian position was that Zelenskiy would not appear if Putin did.
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HEADLINE	11/08 Another American dies in Ukraine combat
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/nov/08/us-soldier-timothy-griffin-dies-ukraine-russia-international-legion
GIST	<p>Another American volunteer has died in combat in Ukraine, a spokesperson for the country's International Legion confirmed on Monday, bringing the number of US fighters killed in the war against Russia to at least six.</p> <p>Timothy Griffin, from New York state, had been fighting alongside Ukrainians as part of their counteroffensive on the eastern front when his unit came under attack. The legion's spokesperson, identified as "Mockingjay" to NBC News, said that Griffin was "killed in action".</p>

“We are in contact with the family and the International Legion, and the armed forces of [Ukraine](#) are handling the repatriation process, in coordination with the family, following their wishes and instructions,” the spokesperson said.

Details of Griffin’s Ukrainian volunteer history are scarce, but people with knowledge of his death told NBC he had been fighting in the [Kharkiv](#) region.

The US state department said it was “aware of these unconfirmed reports” of an American citizen killed in Ukraine but had no further comment “due to privacy considerations”.

“We once again reiterate our message that US citizens should not travel to Ukraine due to the active armed conflict,” a state department spokeswoman said. “US citizens in Ukraine should depart immediately if it is safe to do so using any commercial or other privately available ground transportation options.”

Ukraine’s International Legion of Territorial Defense was established in February for “friends of peace and democracy” to fight for the country. Ukraine’s foreign minister has said that around 20,000 foreign fighters have expressed interest in joining up.

In March, the Pentagon spokesperson, John Kirby, urged Americans to stay home despite Ukraine’s pleas for help. The US has instead preferred to send billions of dollars in training and equipment to Ukraine as it seeks to repel Russia’s invasion.

“If you’re an American and you want to do right by Ukraine, the best thing you can do is find a way to donate to so many agencies that are trying to deal with what is now clearly a humanitarian crisis in the region, and certainly there in Ukraine,” Kirby said. “We still do not believe that Ukraine is a safe place for Americans to go.”

Ukrainian officials told [the Military Times](#) they were looking for foreign volunteers with combat experience who require little training before being armed and sent to the frontline. Officials said no volunteers would be allowed to bring their own weapons, and those fighting would at least be issued with rifles.

Griffin’s killing while fighting for Ukraine follows that of [Willy Cancel](#), 22, in April. The following month Stephen Zabielski, 52, of Hernando, Florida, was also killed in the service of Ukraine.

Over the summer, [Bryan Young and Luke Lucyszyn](#) also died fighting Russia in Ukraine. And last week, the body of 24-year-old Joshua Jones was returned by Russia to Ukrainian custody.

It has also been confirmed that 23-year-old Skyler James Greggs from Washington state died in north-eastern Ukraine while with the International Legion.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Fiji’s radical plan to escape rising seas
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/08/how-to-move-a-country-fiji-radical-plan-escape-rising-seas-climate-crisis
GIST	<p>For the past four years, a special government taskforce in Fiji has been trying to work out how to move the country. The plan it has come up with runs to 130 pages of dense text, interspersed with intricate spider graphs and detailed timelines. The document has an uninspiring title – Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocations – but it is the most thorough plan ever devised to tackle one of the most urgent consequences of the climate crisis: how to relocate communities whose homes will soon be, or already are, underwater.</p> <p>The task is huge. Fiji, which lies in the south Pacific, 1,800 miles east of Australia, has more than 300 islands and a population of just under 1 million. Like most of the Pacific, it is starkly susceptible to the impacts of the climate crisis. Surface temperatures and ocean heat in parts of the south-west Pacific are</p>

increasing [three times faster](#) than the global average rate. Severe cyclones routinely batter the region. In 2016, [Cyclone Winston hit Fiji](#), killing 44 people and causing \$1.4bn of damage, a third of Fiji's GDP. Since then, Fiji has been hit by a further six cyclones. Five of the 15 countries most at risk from weather-related events are in the Pacific. Fiji is number 14.

What Fiji is attempting to do is unprecedented. For years, politicians and scientists have been talking about the prospect of climate migration. In Fiji, and in much of the Pacific, this migration has already begun. Here, the question is no longer *if* communities will be forced to move, but how exactly to do it. At present, 42 Fijian villages have been earmarked for potential relocation in the next five to 10 years, owing to the impacts of climate crisis. Six have already been moved. Every new cyclone or disaster brings with it the risk of yet more villages being added to the list.

Moving a village across Fiji's lush, mountainous terrain is an astonishingly complex task. "We keep on trying to explain this," Satyendra Prasad, Fiji's ambassador to the UN, told the Guardian last year. "It is not just pulling out 30 or 40 houses in a village and moving them further upfield. I wish it were that simple." He rattled off a list of the things that need to be moved along with homes: schools, health centres, roads, electricity, water, infrastructure, the village church. "And in case even that you were able to achieve, you have to relocate people's burial grounds. Try doing that." If anything, Prasad was understating the challenges, which are not just logistical – though that element is hard enough – but also financial, political, even spiritual.

The Standard Operating Procedures document is in the final stages of consultation and will soon go before Fiji's cabinet for approval. "No other country, to the best of my knowledge, has progressed as far in their thinking about how to make planned relocation decisions at a national level," says Erica Bower, an expert on planned relocations, who has worked with the UN and the Fijian government. "These are questions that so many governments around the world are going to be asking in the next 10 years, 20 years, 50 years."

1 The first relocation: a (partial) success story

Vunidogoloa, a village of about 140 people on Vanua Levu, the country's second-biggest island, has an unfortunate prestige in Fiji. It was the first place to be relocated due to the climate crisis. As it is, in a sense, proof of concept, the village has received a lot of visitors over the years. Sailosi Ramatu, who often takes them on a tour of the new and old village sites, has his spiel down pat.

Ramatu, 62, was the village headman in 2014, at the time of the move. Vunidogoloa is two hours' drive from the island's main town of Labasa, and when I visited recently, he showed me around the old village. This was where Ramatu was born, where he always imagined he would die. Now it is a ghost town. About 20 abandoned houses are still standing, wind whistling through their open doors and broken louvres. The roofs are falling in, floorboards are missing, everything is overgrown. What would once have been a lush grass clearing where people met to eat and drink is now a swamp.

Discussions about moving Vunidogoloa started in earnest around 2004. Two years later, the community approached the provincial government and requested assistance with relocation. It took the better part of a decade before the new site, about a mile farther inland and higher up, was ready for them.

Moving was a decision of the very last resort. The village had adapted until it could adapt no more. Down on the sand beach at the old village site, Ramatu showed me concrete blocks sticking out from the sand: the footings of his old home. Over the decades, as the water advanced, his family had moved the house back once, then again. He pointed out the remains of a sea wall three or four metres offshore. It was the second built for the village, after waves and storms destroyed the first. It, too, became useless.

The idea of moving the village had been discussed since the 50s, when the sea level started rising, and so the community felt it had the blessing of past generations. Even so, it was painful to leave, and especially painful to leave the dead behind. "We left our grandparents, we left our parents, we left everything. [When] we moved that day, [it] was like moving as foreigners to a foreign land. People

packing their bags, they were loaded on to a truck ... they cried before they left their house, because that was the last time.”

The new Vunidogoloa consists of 30 pale green houses dotted across an impossibly green hillside. In Sera Naidrua’s house on the day I visited, colourful fabric hangings covered the walls and a cool breeze ran through the open windows and doors. She had laid a green gingham cloth on the floor, on which she had set plastic buckets holding cutlery, and coloured glass plates, which stood ready for lunch: rourou (taro leaf cooked in coconut milk) and cassava. A ginger cat sat by her side.

As Naidrua, who is 74, poured cold tea into bright plastic cups, she spoke emotionally about the old village. She recalled, as a child, picking the fruit of the dilo tree, which grew along the coast at the old site, and using them to play marbles. But ultimately, she said, “It was a good decision relocating here.” Before, she said, “We were fearing for our lives because of cyclones, inundation of waves in the village.” Now, “We feel safer here.”

To relocate, a community ideally needs two things. “The village must have the land, and second they must have the resource: timber, gravel, rocks, sand,” said Simione Botu, the current headman. “If not ... trouble.” In these respects, at least, Vunidogoloa was lucky. Villagers didn’t have to negotiate with a neighbouring clan or with the government for land to move to. They already owned land, within mataqali (clan) boundaries, that was deemed safe for a new village to be built on. The clan also owned forest that could provide timber for the houses. So, while the Fijian government funded a large part of the relocation, and the International Labour Organization provided some funding to pay labourers for the construction, the village contributed much of the resources.

Even so, mistakes were made. Speak to people working on Fiji’s relocation guidelines, and one omission in particular comes up time and time again. The houses at the new Vunidogoloa site were all built without kitchens. The initial government plan was that each house was to have a separate external kitchen, to be built during a second building phase, after the main house structures were finished, but that that never happened. Eventually, villagers built their own kitchens, some using salvaged material from the kitchens of their homes in the old village.

Makereta Waqavonovono, from Climate Tok, an organisation that does climate crisis education work with rural communities, said that what this blunder points to is something more fundamental than just a lack of funding or an incomplete building project: a failure to consult the entire community, rather than with just a few male village leaders. “One of the most glaring parts of it is that they forgot to put kitchens in,” she said when asked about the lessons have been taken from the Vunidogoloa relocation. “Now, what does it say? It means that women were not involved.”

The new site has also brought new problems. It is near a road, which allows villagers easy access to bigger towns for healthcare and schooling, but the ease of travel has also meant the arrival of alcohol, in a previously dry village, and what Botu called “criminal behaviour”. After relocation, the village set up a committee to police the village’s bylaws, particularly around alcohol consumption, noise complaints and antisocial behaviour – problems Botu said they didn’t have before. The new site is inland, which makes fishing, a part of daily life and a key part of the villagers’ diet, harder. Many villagers, Naidrua said, still walk down to the old site to fish two or three times a week.

Still, Naidrua said that most people agree the benefits of the move outweigh the disadvantages. The new houses have septic tanks, solar panels and flushing toilets. Each family has its own home, whereas at the old site, two or three families would share each dwelling. It is much easier to grow food here, away from the boggy, salinated soil. It is, for the most part, a success story, an example of relocation done well.

2 ‘Draft Zero’: how to start planning a move

There aren’t many people who know the details of the Standard Operating Procedures better than Leba Gaunavinaka, a technical specialist at Fiji’s ministry of climate change. As we spoke on Zoom, she shared numerous sprawling graphs that showed the steps required for relocation. They had the flavour

of a choose-your-own-adventure novel: if the land is iTaukei, or indigenous-owned, then the request for relocation goes to the district advisory council. If the land is not indigenous-owned, then the request goes to the Ministry of Housing and Community Development. If the community is judged to be at risk of earthquakes or landslides, the risk assessment of the land should be carried out by the Mineral Resources Department. If the risk is cyclones, then it's done by the Fiji Meteorological Office. The aim is to anticipate every eventuality.

The SOP has gone through countless redrafts since late 2020, when Draft Zero was launched. Draft Zero was the result of extensive discussions between a consultant from GIZ, the German government's main development agency, the international partner coordinating SOP consultations, and the Fiji government. After two years of further consultations and discussions, the SOP is tailored to the situation on the ground. Recent experience has also been woven in. "We've had six communities that have been relocated so far," Gaunavinaka said. "And there are lessons learned from those that have been factored into the SOP."

One example of the way the SOP has evolved is on women's involvement in the relocations. "It's so easy for outsiders to come and say that all decisions should include a woman," said Christine Fung, from GIZ. "And then the process carries on and you see that women are saying 'yes' in meetings, but if you dig deep into this, actually, you know, sometimes it's not a true representation of the women's voice ... Because culturally, most women defer to the men to speak."

The SOPs have tried to address that, Fung said, by deliberately and separately consulting women – as well as other groups in the community – about a potential relocation, and requiring not just that 90% of village residents, but 90% of men, 90% of women, 90% of elderly people, 90% of young people, 90% of LGBTQ residents and 90% of community members with a disability must each give their approval before any assessments or discussions with government can begin about relocation.

The makers of the SOP often describe it as a "living document". In August, leaders of civil society organisations, church groups and NGOs met in a conference room in downtown Suva, the capital of Fiji, to kick the tyres of the plan, including role-playing how they would communicate certain sections of it to communities to try to anticipate pitfalls. "I mean, every month a new experience comes up, and then it's like, OK, let's call a meeting and discuss how best this can be addressed in the SOP so it doesn't happen again," said Fung. "Because these experiences are living experiences, and because it has a human element to it, it keeps changing."

The government hopes that the SOP will resolve the uncertainties of the relocation process. Until now, whether a village was eligible to move – and the ultimate success of a move – depended a lot on the influence of their village leaders. "It was really at the discretion not just of the village headman, but also those government bodies and agencies [responsible for relocation]," said Vani Catanasiga, executive director of the Fiji Council of Social Services, an NGO that has been consulting on the government's relocation plan.

Under the SOP, the process will be standardised. Once consent is given, the government begins a series of assessments to establish the needs of the community and the level of threat, and to survey the available land. All adaptation options are explored: reclaiming surrounding areas, dredging riverbeds, raising the houses on stilts, improving drainage. Only then, when every alternative measure has been ruled out, after extensive consultation with the community, can any action occur.

But even when everyone agrees that relocation is essential, the process can still be undone by two things: access to money and access to land.

3 A village in limbo: ready to move – but where to?

For the people of Nabavatu, the problem has been land. Until last year, no one there had considered relocating. The village, which is built on a hill on Vanua Levu island, overlooking the mighty Dreketi river, had not experienced the slow creep of sea level rise, the gradual poisoning of its land. Then, in

January 2021, it was hit by Cyclone Ana. “This is the first cyclone I ever met during my life,” said Eseroma Lava, 66, the assistant headman for the village. “I was really scared that day.”

Eighteen months after the cyclone, the old village was still a scene of destruction. The village hall, which was supposed to be the evacuation centre in the event of a cyclone, was wrecked. Its ceiling had caved in, and its windows and shutters were blown out. In the wake of the cyclone came torrential rain, which turned the hill to mud and caused the land underneath the homes and roads and buildings to slip. Most of the buildings, including the church at the top of the hill, painted in bright pastels – the crowning glory of the village – developed deep cracks from the foundations up to the roofs. When a team of government surveyors came, they told villagers that the ground was too unstable for them to remain. They had to leave, for good.

When I visited in July, the villagers – nearly 400 people – had been living in disaster tents for well over a year. These 38 tents sit in the grounds of an Assemblies of God church. There is no electricity connected to the site, though villagers have access to small solar batteries that give them some power when the sun is shining. To continue reading or doing schoolwork after night has fallen, children use the torches on their phones, if they have them. Water supply is patchy, and there aren’t enough toilets. “All 38 tents here use the church toilet – three for the ladies, three for the men,” said Lava with a sigh.

It was sunset, and Lava’s daughter, Laisana Bilosiliva, had just bathed her toddler in a concrete sink in the makeshift kitchen outside her tent. Seven adults and six children were sharing the tent. Privacy was an issue, but the main challenge was the heat, said Bilosiliva. During the day, the tents are too hot for children to be in safely, so she spends a lot of the day with her daughter outside, in the shade of a mango tree. At night, though, the tents are freezing cold.

No one disputed that Nabavatu needed relocation. The problem was that it had no suitable land within its clan boundaries. But just before my visit, nearly a year and a half after they were told to leave the old site, the village and government had reached an agreement over a five-hectare plot of state land down the road from where they are temporarily living. (Lava did not say why negotiations had taken so long.) Stuck in the ground at the spot where the new village will be was a new hand-painted sign: “Nabavatu relocation sponsored by Fijian government in consultation with the Nabavatu trust. A climate change project.”

Despite having secured the land, at time of writing, Nabavatu is no closer to having a new village to move into. Lava had been hopeful that logging would soon start on some of the village’s forest to provide timber for the houses that need to be built. He has been told the logging will take about 18 months, but as of late October, it still had not begun.

4 The ‘Tukuraki experience’: how things can go wrong

Every village on the list of 42 in need of urgent relocation will face this question of land. Indigenous land cannot be bought or sold in Fiji, though one clan can reach an agreement with another to allow it to use some land for a new village site. There is no money involved in such arrangements. “There’s no monetary expectation,” said one source involved in the relocation process. “In our culture it’s not something that we – that would be ...” She started to laugh at the absurdity. “You’re giving it to a family unit or a village to occupy because they are in need. It’s usually an area that you’re not even occupying. It’s actually seen as a boost that you would do that, to strengthen ties with neighbouring clans.”

But the absence of a financial agreement can sometimes make things more complicated. In 2017, Tukuraki, a village in the highlands of the main island of Viti Levu, relocated to a neighbouring clan’s land, after a series of disasters. In January 2012 a landslide had struck Tukuraki, killing a family, including two toddlers. Later that year, Cyclone Evan hit the village, damaging the temporary homes, destroying infrastructure and wiping out crops. Then, in February 2016, Cyclone Winston, the worst cyclone in Fiji’s history, hit, destroying or damaging the makeshift shelters the villagers had been living in, with many finding shelter in caves in the mountains.

In October 2017, a new 11-home village, on the land of a neighbouring community, was ready for them to move into. But, according to people familiar with the situation, tensions have since sprung up between the relocated Tukuraki villagers and members of the clan on whose land they now live. The latter were unhappy when they realised that the homes that had been built for the new village – with kitchens, toilets and bathrooms – were better than theirs, and that the development partners had built a fish pond, a poultry shed and bee hives so that the Tukuraki villagers could generate an income in their new village site. “I guess it’s human nature, you’ve given this land and all of a sudden you’re seeing this new community thriving, flourishing,” said Waqavonovono from Climate Tok.

Waqavonovono said the situation has been made more complicated by confusion about the terms of the agreement between the two clans, and the death of the village chief who originally made the deal with Tukuraki. People familiar with the situation told me that the groups were in the process of working things out, and just needed some time and space to do so. In July, when I visited Fiji, things were still tense, and Tukuraki leaders were not allowing any visitors.

Once again, the makers of the SOP have amended the document to address what Fung described as the “Tukuraki experience”. Now, Fung says, “the SOP also mentions that development of the host community has to be also considered when a new community is being given this development.”

5 ‘A sliver of a sliver’: the problem of finding funding

Once the land question is settled, there remains the question of how to pay for the relocation. The process is expensive, and neither Fiji’s government, nor the villages being relocated, have the money to foot the bill. Fiji’s GDP in 2021 was \$4.59bn – down nearly 20% from 2019, after Covid effectively shut down the country’s all-important tourism industry overnight. That means Fiji’s current GDP is around the same amount the British government spent last year on launching “Projet Gigabit” to connect hard-to-reach UK households with next-generation broadband.

International funding, such as via the Green Climate Fund, is slim. “If you look at the amount of funding that’s being made available for [climate] adaptation,” Fiji’s climate change minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said, “the Pacific’s allocation is a sliver of a sliver.” But the need for this funding is growing. Sayed-Khaiyum, who is also Fiji’s minister for the economy, told me that, with the need to relocate so many communities from coastal areas, the map of Fiji could look quite different in 50 years. “Sixty-five per cent of the population of Fiji lives within 5km of the shoreline,” he told me. “That’s a lot of people ... You’re going to have a lot more people living in the interior.”

The government has been innovative in its attempts to find money for relocation. In 2019, it announced it had set up the world’s first relocation trust fund for people displaced by climate change. Seed funding for the trust fund came from a percentage of the income from the government’s Environmental and Climate Adaptation Levy, a range of taxes on hotels, cruise ships and ferries, bars, nightclubs, cinemas, and restaurants, as well as on incomes over FJ\$270,000 (\$117,000). But the prime minister acknowledged in a speech announcing the launch on the margins of the UN general assembly in 2019 that “this is not enough”, and that Fiji would need contributions from international partners in order for the relocation trust fund to work. In February 2020, New Zealand became the first international partner to donate directly to the trust fund, contributing NZ\$2m (\$1.25m).

Still, it’s clear that there simply isn’t enough money in the government pot to relocate every community that needs relocating. The Standard Operating Procedures document shows that the government is making a plan and taking a leap at the same time. Here is how it will work, the document implies. Now help us make it happen.

6 Those who leave and those who stay

When villages start to consider relocating, as well as the surveyors, the consultants, the government officials and the donors, another key group that comes in to help are theologians. “Pacific people are still deeply spiritual ... and deeply connected to the land,” said Netani Rika from the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), an influential group that connects churches of different Christian denominations across the Pacific. “It is the land God gave your forefathers and your forefathers have given to you, and

now if you are moving away, it's a sign almost that you are giving up on your responsibility. And sometimes all they need is for the priest or for their church minister or pastor to say: look, whether you are here or up on that mountain, God is still with you. God is everywhere. God has been with you from the beginning and will accompany you on this journey also. Feel free to go."

For many Pacific people, burial sites remain the biggest obstacle to relocation. The hardest people to move are the dead. When relocating, villagers face a choice of either leaving behind the bones of ancestors, or exhuming them and taking them to the new site. Either choice is deeply traumatic.

In a tiny settlement of half a dozen houses named Togoru, about 45 minutes drive from Suva, the local cemetery is already underwater. At high tide, fish swim around the gravestones of Lavenia McGoon's ancestors, but McGoon, who is 70, wants to stay. According to residents, the settlement has been there since the early 1800s. Togoru is small, with about 20 people living there. Many residents come and go – some have lived and worked elsewhere in Fiji before returning, or work in other parts of the country during the week and return for weekends and holidays.

When I visited, McGoon had visitors from Australia. A boatload of children were setting off on an expedition, and a toddler was napping in a hammock stretched between palm trees in the shade. "It's lovely, you'll notice. It's so beautiful, so peaceful", she said. "I live here with my grandchildren. My husband passed away in 2013. I'm OK, I'm happy ... If I want to eat fish, I just stand up here, throw my line, catch my fish. We sell coconuts and things, and that's enough."

The scene is idyllic – until you walk down to the shoreline, about 30 metres from where the road ends at the entrance to the settlement. McGoon is waging a desperate one-woman war against the ocean. She has scattered the beach with old tyres filled with rocks so the waves at high tide won't break with such force on the land.

Togoru loses an estimated 1.5 metres of land every year. But, in the first six months of 2022, McGoon said they had already lost five metres. McGoon did not put the damage down solely to climate breakdown. She said the damming of a nearby river, done so that land near the settlement could be used for rice farming, has also played a role. "You know, you want to go against nature, this is what will happen. And once the ocean gets mad, that's it," she said.

The waterlogged cemetery is perhaps the starkest symbol of the losses that have been suffered. "Everywhere [in the world], the cemetery, the dead, the loved ones, they are special and they are well looked after," said McGoon. "But it's so sad to see them, to see the cemetery like that."

Togoru is not slated for relocation. It is not on the list of 42. The government has repeatedly raised the option of relocation with the community, but the residents have stressed that they do not wish to move. The government has promised McGoon another sea wall, after the first was defeated by the waves. She wants to stay until she dies. "I'm too old to start all over again," she said.

After she is gone, she doesn't see a future for Togoru. "I'm telling my grandchildren: try to be better off. Go to school, achieve your goals, work, earn money and bugger off overseas, that's all. Because, you know, we can see what's really happening."

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HEADLINE	11/08 Iran leaders resist growing reform demands
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/08/iranian-leaders-resist-growing-demands-for-referendum-on-constitution
GIST	The Iranian leadership is resisting growing demands from clerics and some reformist politicians to stage a new referendum on Iran's constitution as hardline parliamentarians meanwhile insist the only response to the recent unrest sweeping the country is for violent protesters to be executed.

The power struggle among the country's rulers appears to leave the government sending out mixed messages on how to respond to the protests, but in practice the security forces have gone ahead with a severe crackdown and arrested nearly 10,000 people, [including 60 journalists](#).

But some senior members of Iran's multi-faceted administration have in recent days gone on to university campuses in a bid to open a dialogue with the protesting students, or to blame the country's problems on the previous administration led by President Hassan Rouhani. Ministers are facing demands to release the hundreds of students and teachers still detained.

Students were outraged when on Sunday 220 hardline Iranian lawmakers urged the judiciary to deal decisively with perpetrators of unrest, a wording that was taken to mean executions. Faced by a backlash the spokesperson for the parliament said on Tuesday the call had been misinterpreted by western media and a distinction had been drawn between protests and riots, adding no appeasement was possible for those that had killed others.

Iran's spokesperson for the judiciary, Masoud Setayeshi, said at a news conference in Tehran that cases had been filed against 1,024 protesters in Tehran.

In a largely leaderless revolution, clerics and some students are making demands that the regime try to resolve the crisis by holding an immediate referendum with the presence of international observers. The original Iranian revolution in 1979 was endorsed by a simple referendum in which all Iranians aged over 16 were asked: "Should Iran be an Islamic Republic?"

The call for a new referendum was first made by Iran's leading Sunni cleric Molavi Abdulhamid, who is based in the south-eastern city of Zahedan. "Hold a referendum and see what changes people want and accept whatever the wishes of the people. The current policies have reached a dead end," he said.

"This constitution itself was approved 43 years ago and those who compiled it have all left and another generation has come. This law should also be changed and updated. Many clauses of this law are not up to date.

"It has been said many times that this law should be put to a referendum, but unfortunately nothing has been done and even the same law of 43 years ago has not been properly implemented."

His call to renew the government's legitimacy was supported by the Union of Islamic People Party led by Azar Mansoori. "Lack of political legitimacy is the most obvious threat to the country's national security," she said. "Do you want to make legitimate changes? Don't erase the problem, find out the reason for the people's protest and ask yourself is there any way other than free elections and an independent civil society?"

Hossein Noorani Nejad, a reformist member of Mosharekat Party, writing in the Etemaad newspaper, said support for the referendum was growing by the day, adding it may be the last chance to find a reform solution.

Mohammed Hosseini, vice-president for parliamentary affairs, however said in a question and answer session with students that referendums were for individual issues and could not be held to judge the principles of Iran's governing system. He said the protests had been continuing for 50 days, and there had to be a red line.

Faced by a walkout and some barracking by the students, he continued: "Some people are trying to create fratricidal war in the country, and want to turn us into Syria. Do you think Saudi Arabia which kills its young opponents wants to teach Iran a moral lesson with the media that it has arranged against us?"

A large group of students at Tehran's Sharif University rallied on Tuesday to protest against threats, arrests and pressure on students. In a statement the students said: "This is Sharif University. This is not a prison. This is Sharif University, not Qasr prison of the country's intelligence and security organisation."

	<p>The students demanded the authorities end their repression, and respect the autonomy of academic life. “Free our classmates, stop ridiculous plans such as banning students from entering the university, remove your uniformed forces from the university, provide a suitable space for academics to express their views,” a statement said.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 Concern: China recruits Western pilots
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-allies-seek-to-stop-former-military-pilots-from-helping-china-11667976846?mod=hp_listb_pos1
GIST	<p>SYDNEY—Australia will review its rules aimed at deterring former military personnel from aiding foreign adversaries, as U.S. allies grow concerned that China has recruited Western pilots and benefited from their technical expertise.</p> <p>Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said an investigation into whether former Australian personnel had provided training to China had raised concerns that justified a deeper examination of existing regulations. He declined to say whether any individual Australians had helped China, but said some cases remained under investigation.</p> <p>“It’s really important that we have the most robust framework possible that is in place to protect Australia’s information and protect our secrets,” Mr. Marles said on Wednesday.</p> <p>Key U.S. allies have expressed worries in recent weeks that China, which the Biden administration views as the greatest threat to American security, was trying to lure former pilots and erode the West’s military advantage. Last month, the U.K. Defense Ministry said it would take steps, including through legislation, to deter and penalize former military pilots who helped train the Chinese military.</p> <p>The U.S. is also seeking to prosecute former pilots who may have helped China. Earlier this week, the Justice Department said Shapour Moinian, a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot who then worked for defense contractors, was sentenced to 20 months in prison for acting as an agent of the Chinese government and accepting money from its representatives in exchange for aviation-related information.</p> <p>On Wednesday, China’s Foreign Ministry didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on the alleged hiring of Western pilots. The Biden administration recently released a new U.S. defense strategy, calling for a concerted effort to deter Beijing in coming decades, which had prompted a response from Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian that the paper was “driven ostensibly by a Cold War zero-sum mentality” and that China’s development strengthened world peace.</p> <p>The U.S. and its allies rely in part on air power to deter China from taking more aggressive moves in the Indo-Pacific, and air maneuvers would likely be a key feature of any Chinese effort to invade Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own. Dozens of Chinese aircraft were involved in operations that simulated a blockade of Taiwan in August, Taiwan’s Defense Ministry said at the time.</p> <p>By working with former Western military pilots, even through civilian training schools, foreign adversaries such as China could glean information regarding standard operating procedures and doctrines about how Western air forces are run. Although current laws make it illegal to disclose state secrets, teaching foreign pilots how to fly may not be considered classified and could fall into a gray area, some defense experts said.</p> <p>“It really to me sounds like they’re just tightening an existing loophole,” said Victor Abramowicz, a former Australian defense department employee who worked in intelligence and strategic areas and is now principal at Ostoya Consulting. “They might be aware of people who are considering job offers now, and this is saying to them, don’t get too close, because laws are going to change.”</p>

Any effort by China or other foreign rivals to recruit British and Australian pilots would be concerning for U.S. defense officials. Last year, all three countries [signed a security pact](#) called Aukus that covers a range of military cooperation. U.S. troops train in northern Australia and the U.S. is investing in more military infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region, including airfields that would become key in any military conflict.

One flight school, the Test Flying Academy of South Africa, has previously promoted its deep links with China. According to its website, the school has helped with aircraft testing in China since 2003, and in 2010 it created an academy in South Africa to train Chinese commercial airline pilots. A section of the website describing how the school also provides training for military pilots, including advanced fighter tactics and weapons instruction, was removed in October, according to cached versions of the site.

In a statement, the school said none of its training involves classified tactics or other information, and none of its trainers are in possession of legally or operationally sensitive information relating to the national-security interests of any country.

The school says it has been in contact with the U.K. Defense Ministry for years about its work, and the U.K. side hadn't previously raised concerns.

In recent weeks, Australian authorities detained Daniel Edmund Duggan, who according to the website of his former company used to be a pilot for the U.S. Marines. More recently, he did work with an aviation consultancy in China, according to his LinkedIn profile.

The U.S. requested that Australia arrest Mr. Duggan, there is a U.S. warrant for his arrest and the U.S. could seek to have Mr. Duggan extradited, Mr. Duggan's lawyer, Dennis Miralis, told reporters last week in Sydney after a brief court hearing. Mr. Miralis said at the time he hadn't seen an indictment from the U.S., but that Mr. Duggan denies breaching any laws.

U.S. officials have declined to comment on Mr. Duggan's case.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Whatcom Co. flood families still displaced
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/disaster/whatcom-county-historic-floods-one-year-later/281-fb1ae3c9-b8c5-4cdd-9571-10f84f753544
GIST	<p>SUMAS, Wash. — A year after historic flooding in Whatcom County, dozens of people whose homes sustained severe damage are still displaced. Many are unlikely to move back in before 2023.</p> <p>A cold November wind blows through the walls of the home belonging to Cristian and Emily Colacillo, which is still without windows. The couple's house has been torn down to the studs. Holes and cracks pock the splintered floorboards.</p> <p>The home had 3 feet of water inside when last year's historic floods hit, and very little has changed.</p> <p>"I assumed we'd be home by now, that we'd be back to normal and not be literally in the exact same spot as before," said Emily Colacillo. "A year later, I'm no closer to coming home than I was the day I left. That's frustrating and difficult."</p> <p>Back-to-back floods ravaged the northern Whatcom County towns of Sumas, Nooksack and Everson in November 2021, damaging 2,000 properties, causing \$200 million in losses and killing one man.</p> <p>The Colacillos have now been out of their house longer than they were in it. The couple and their two daughters had lived there just eight months when the floods hit.</p>

Twelve months later they're still living in an apartment, paying rent as well as the mortgage for a house that needs to be torn down. The family was ready for a rebuild but between the original quote and today, the price jumped about \$150,000.

That's due to supply chain shortages, rising labor costs, and unforeseen expenses.

It's money the family simply doesn't have.

"Some paychecks we make it with \$100, \$200 left in the account until the next check hits," said Emily Colacillo. "Sometimes we're at the food bank, sometimes we're asking for help with diapers. Sometimes we're putting it on a credit card. It just depends on the week."

There are still at least 50 families who haven't been able to get back into their homes.

Some of them are still being identified, and aid workers say it will likely be well into next year before they're able to return

"There are a lot of hoops to jump through, a lot of paperwork, a lot of processes," said Audrey Alf, an individual assistance coordinator with Whatcom County Emergency Management. "Then you have a large number of people all fighting for the same resources at the same time so it gets overwhelming."

Alf says insurance snafus and bureaucratic red tape are slowing the process.

"A lot of the money that's being allocated is restricted for certain uses," Alf explained. "I have a client who had everything lined up to raise her house and she had to cancel at the last minute because her insurance didn't want repair money to go for mitigation, which is what a lift would be. Now she has to go another winter living in an unsafe house until she can try again in the spring."

Alf started working for the county on a temporary basis in March.

Her job was supposed to end in December, but it has now been extended until June 2023.

"There is no way we're going to be done with this in December," Alf said. "I have clients where it will probably be a couple of years before they're wrapped up."

As Emily Colacillo and her family head into year two without their home, friends have organized an online fundraiser to help them rebuild.

She wonders how it all went so wrong.

"We have insurance," she said. "We did all the things we should do, and here we are."

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HEADLINE	11/08 King Co. health officials: E. coli outbreak
SOURCE	https://www.q13fox.com/news/health-officials-investigating-small-e-coli-outbreak-in-king-county
GIST	<p>SEATTLE - Local health officials are investigating an outbreak of E. coli in King County.</p> <p>Currently, just three cases of E. coli have been detected—all of whom are adults between ages 18–36, and who reported becoming ill between Oct. 4–16.</p> <p>According to Public Health – Seattle & King County, two of three people ill reported eating raw or undercooked beef.</p> <p>So far, no one has been hospitalized, and no deaths have been reported.</p>

	<p>Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) illness typically occurs when someone eats contaminated food or contact with infected animals.</p> <p>Health officials say the confirmed cases have been linked through genetic fingerprinting, which they say indicates the same genetic strain. This means they likely have a common source of infection, but the source has not been identified yet.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 Deception, trickery as weapons Ukraine war
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/09/world/europe/ukraine-russia-war-weapons.html
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine — In a jerky cellphone video filmed through the window of a bus, the Russian checkpoint in Ukraine’s embattled Kherson region looks abandoned. “Empty,” somebody says in the background, as passengers begin to cheer.</p> <p>Was this a sign that Russia is retreating from the area — or was it a ruse, meant to lure Ukrainian soldiers into a trap?</p> <p>It is unclear who shot the video, which popped up widely on social media, or why. But its appearance adds to other suspicious goings-on around the strategic city of Kherson: Russia’s tricolor flags disappeared the same day from administrative buildings, and a Russian general, rather than rallying the troops, suggested obliquely on state TV that the military might need to abandon the city.</p> <p>Russia’s war in Ukraine is being fought with the blunt force of artillery bombardments, airstrikes and infantry assaults. But it is also a battle of wits — waged between generals sending signals intended to confuse and mislead their enemies — and a contest of feints, parries and continual efforts to set traps.</p> <p>This is exactly what Ukrainian officials say they are witnessing in and around Kherson, with the flurry of confusing messages that have muddled the picture of the fighting in the south, where one of the most consequential battles of the war seems to be looming. The prize: the southern city of Kherson, the only provincial capital Russia captured after its invasion in February.</p> <p>And the Ukrainians themselves have engaged in their own bits of misleading messaging.</p> <p>“Trickery is as old as warfare,” said Tor Bukkvoll, a senior research fellow at the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment, a military think tank, and an authority on Russia’s special forces. All militaries practice it, he said, but the Russians have put a special emphasis on deception in their military doctrine.</p> <p>Russia’s hold is faltering in and around Kherson, on the western side of the broad Dnipro River. The Ukrainian military, using precision rockets provided by the West, has mostly destroyed the bridges over the river, setting the stage for a possible rout of the soldiers who remain on the west bank. But Ukrainian commanders and military analysts alike say they are seeing signs of a Russian psychological warfare operation in the swirl of conflicting signals.</p> <p>Russia’s military and civilian leadership has for a month been telegraphing an intention to retreat from Kherson. They have withdrawn military equipment, told civilians to leave the area and removed items perceived as culturally significant to Russians — like the bones of Prince Grigory Potemkin, a Russian noble and lover of Catherine the Great who had advocated joining this area to the empire.</p> <p>If the Russians went through the trouble of evacuating Potemkin’s bones from a cathedral crypt in Kherson, the gesture seemed to suggest, the Russian army must truly believe the city would soon fall to the advancing Ukrainian army.</p> <p>Nothing of the sort, Ukraine’s southern military command and military intelligence agency responded in public comments to the Russian moves, which also included evacuating two statues of Russian notables and wide-scale looting of homes and stores by Russian soldiers.</p>

In fact, Ukrainian military officials say, Russia has deployed additional forces to the western bank of the river and is preparing for urban combat.

“They are very deliberately trying to convince us that they are withdrawing” to lure Ukraine into a premature offensive on the city, Natalia Humeniuk, the spokeswoman for the southern command, told a Ukrainian television news broadcast over the weekend.

“We see objective data they remain in place,” she said, in comments suggesting that an imminent Ukrainian attack was unlikely — yet another potential example of military misdirection, this time from the Ukrainian side. “Powerful defensive units are dug in, heavy weaponry remains and firing positions set up.”

It is also possible that the Ukrainians so distrust the Russians that they see treachery at every turn, in what could well be the day-to-day confusion of war or a chaotic, if actual, Russian retreat, rather than a master stroke of psychological warfare.

“The situation in Kherson is clear as mud,” Michael Kofman, a military analyst with CNA, a research institute in Arlington, Va., wrote on Twitter. “I think this is a fog of war issue right now, with contradictory” indications, he wrote, but signs pointing to an eventual Russian withdrawal.

The Russian military, and the Soviet military before it, have shown a longtime interest in operations oozing with deceit and disguise, developing a repertoire of tricks taught in military academies for decades and put to practice in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Syria and Ukraine.

Nearly every Russian and Soviet deployment over the past half century, with the notable exception of this year’s invasion of Ukraine, opened with soldiers appearing first in civilian clothing or unmarked uniforms. In 1983, the Soviet Union [deployed troops disguised as tourists](#) to Syria during the Lebanese civil war, in what became known as the “Comrade Tourist” ruse.

But just as the Russian military’s bloody operation in Ukraine has floundered, its vaunted reputation for cunning has been dented in this war as the Ukrainians themselves have fought back with their own trickery.

In September, the Ukrainian military caught Russian forces off guard in a lightning offensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region after it had telegraphed for months an intention to attack in the south, in the Kherson region.

“What strikes me now is how thoroughly they have been tricked themselves” in the war in Ukraine, Mr. Bukkvoll said of the Russian army. “I think they feel tricked, and that would be a motive as well for trying a trick of their own.”

Interpreting Russian public commentary has become part of the art of war for Ukraine and its allies. An ulterior motive is always assumed.

Last month, the collaborationist governor of the Kherson region, Volodymyr Saldo, announced a plan to evacuate 70,000 civilians from the western bank of the Dnipro River, saying the Ukrainian military intended to blow up the nearby Kakhovka dam, and flood cities and towns. Russian television showed crowds of civilians packing onto ferries crossing the river.

Ukrainian officials quickly discounted Russian concern for residents’ safety, midway through a war of indiscriminate Russian bombardments that have killed civilians. And within days, the Russian military appeared to show its hand — and its own fears of subterfuge — saying they would consider residents who remained in the city possible collaborators.

The Ukrainians, meanwhile, saw just more subterfuge. They said Russian forces were ready themselves to blow up the dam to cover a retreat.

The Institute for the Study of War, an American analytical group, interpreted Mr. Saldo's claim as laying the ground for a "false flag" operation, a trick in which Russian forces would destroy the dam yet make it appear that Ukrainian forces were to blame.

Ukrainian commanders interviewed recently at frontline positions said they pay little heed to Russian public statements, ever mindful of possible trickery. Their battle plans, they said, were built instead around intelligence assessments of Russian force strength, gathered from drones and spies.

The Ukrainian military has publicly put forward what it says are its next steps: advancing troops to within howitzer range of the Russian pontoon bridges over the Dnipro and subjecting them to round-the-clock bombardment, to more thoroughly sever supply lines before risking a ground assault. That suggests a drawn-out battle, not an imminent assault.

Or does it?

It would be hard to find answers in the dueling public statements of commanders and officials on each side, none of which seem to fit for people trying to build morale to lead soldiers into battle.

On the Russian side, General Sergei Surovkin has been projecting an air of gloom and doom, saying last month, "the situation in Kherson is tense, we do not rule out difficult decisions." And Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Russian occupation government in Kherson, said flatly of the Russian army, "most likely, our forces will leave to the eastern bank in Kherson region."

On the Ukrainian side, the director of the country's military intelligence agency, Kyrylo Budanov, highlighted his enemy's strength. The Russians, "are creating the illusion that everything is lost," he said. "Quite the opposite, they are deploying new military units and preparing the city's streets for defense."

Out on those streets, according to a resident named Ihor who was reached by phone, Russian armored personnel carriers wheel about, with groups of soldiers carrying rifles riding on the roofs. Asking that his full name not be used for security reasons, he added that soldiers were looting electronics stores and private apartments, carrying away appliances.

Whatever the Russians' intentions, he said, order is unraveling. "It's all very hard, all very tense," he said. "It's scary."

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HEADLINE	11/08 Ukraine new air defense system: NASAMS
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/08/us/politics/russia-ukraine-missiles-nasams.html
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — After eight continuous months of combat, Ukraine is running low on the missiles that its Soviet-era air defense systems use to shoot down Russian drones and warplanes. But on Monday, according to U.S. and Ukrainian officials, the country received its first shipment of an advanced weapon whose design helps solve the supply problem.</p> <p>The weapon is an air defense system known as the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System, or NASAMS, that is jointly produced by the United States and Norway. It includes a radar, sensors, launchers that can be loaded with six missiles each and a mobile command center where soldiers can monitor airborne threats. Every component can be towed or placed on the back of a truck and moved quickly.</p> <p>"It does provide a significant air defense capability," Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters on Tuesday. He added that NASAMS can defend against "basically any type of advanced aerial threat that Russia may try to employ against Ukrainian targets or civilians."</p> <p>"So it does add an extra arrow to the quiver, so to speak, for Ukrainian air defense," the general added.</p>

According to the Norwegian defense firm Kongsberg, which produces the weapons system with the American defense company Raytheon Technologies, NASAMS was first fielded by Norway's armed forces in 1998. It was later adopted for use by the Pentagon in 2005 to defend the Washington area, according to Raytheon.

U.S. military planners decided that it would be especially useful for Ukraine given that the ground-based launcher can fire relatively inexpensive missiles that were built for fighter jets in aerial combat, which Kyiv's allies have in large numbers.

General Ryder declined to say which countries have been supplying missiles for Ukraine's new launchers.

"It's from a variety of sources, to include U.S. stocks, and those of various allies and partners," he said.

Dozens of Ukrainian troops recently [completed training in Norway on how to operate and maintain the system](#). The first two NASAMS delivered to Kyiv are now in use, but the number of launchers included in each of them is unclear.

This weapon generally falls into what militaries call a medium-range air defense system, able to hit targets at greater distances than weapons like the shoulder-fired Stinger missile the Pentagon has provided Ukraine, but with less range than larger and more expensive ones like the Patriot missile system.

So while NASAMS can shoot down drones, helicopters, jets and cruise missiles, it is not considered effective against ballistic missiles of the type Russia is reportedly trying to purchase from Iran.

"It's an advanced system, more modern than what Ukraine has now," said Ian Williams, the deputy director of the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank based in Washington.

"It will allow them to defend larger sites, places like critical infrastructure, and the batteries — the launchers themselves — can be spread out over quite a big area," he said. "A single battery can't defend everywhere, but it will allow them to beef up defenses at certain critical sites that need protection," including around electrical infrastructure.

The launcher is capable of firing four different American-made missiles, Mr. Williams said, including the heat-seeking AIM-9X Sidewinder and the AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, which has a radar that can home in on airborne threats about 30 miles away. Additionally, it can identify targets approaching from any direction, Mr. Williams said.

These missiles are among the most commonly purchased by the air forces of the United States, NATO countries and other partners, with tens of thousands of each in circulation.

The NASAMS system is among those being considered for [the European Sky Shield](#), a group of 15 nations led by Germany that will be purchasing a variety of missiles to protect against any military incursion by Moscow.

The launchers that arrived in Ukraine are part of a \$770 million aid package announced by the Pentagon on July 1. The Pentagon announced in August that it would provide money for Ukraine to buy six more and additional missiles for them to fire.

The value of having NASAMS goes beyond the ability to shoot down Russian warplanes and drones, Mr. Williams said, in that it offers Ukrainian civilians a sense of safety and security.

"While the Ukrainians are fighting a war and trying to get the Russians out of their country, they're also trying to get Ukrainian refugees to come back," Mr. Williams said. "These are people who are going to be vital to the Ukrainian economy moving forward."

	“NASAMS won’t provide a dome of protection over all of Ukraine, but it will significantly augment their ability to protect key areas,” he said. “And Ukraine needs more than the two units they have right now.”
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HEADLINE	11/08 Rich nations begin offer direct climate aid
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/08/climate/loss-and-damage-cop27-climate.html
GIST	<p>SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt — For 30 years, developing nations have been calling for industrialized countries to provide compensation for the costs of devastating storms and droughts caused by climate change. For just as long, rich nations that have generated the pollution that is dangerously heating the planet have resisted those calls.</p> <p>At the United Nations climate summit last year, only Scotland, the host country, committed \$2.2 million for what’s known as “loss and damage.” But this week, the dam may have begun to break.</p> <p>On Sunday, negotiators from developing countries succeeded in placing the matter on the formal agenda of this year’s climate summit, known as COP27, or the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>“The addition of loss and damage on the agenda is a significant achievement, and one that we have been fighting for many years,” Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, said on Tuesday. “We have a moral and just cause.”</p> <p>By the end of the third day of the conference, several European countries had pledged cash for a new loss and damage fund.</p> <p>The first minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, appeared at a New York Times event on the sidelines of COP27 after promising an additional \$5.7 million.</p> <p>“The Global South still feel that they’re having to come and plead with the rich countries to acknowledge, let alone address, the issue of loss and damage, for example,” Ms. Sturgeon said. “There is a real need to make tangible progress.”</p> <p>The commitment of direct funding for loss and damage represents a major break from precedent. For decades, wealthy nations, which have emitted half of all heat-trapping gasses since 1850, have avoided calls to help poor countries recover from climate disasters, fearing that doing so could open them to unlimited liability. And, as a legal and a practical matter, it has been extraordinarily difficult to define “loss and damage” and determine what it might cost and who should pay how much.</p> <p>Yet after increasingly destructive fires, floods and droughts, which have touched every corner of the globe but have disproportionately affected the developing world, Western leaders have changed their tune.</p> <p>On Tuesday, Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, endorsed the idea of new funds for poor nations being affected by climate change.</p> <p>“The COP must make progress on minimizing and averting loss and damage from climate change,” she said, addressing other world leaders. “It is high time to put this on the agenda.”</p> <p>Shortly after Ms. von der Leyen’s remarks, Prime Minister Micheál Martin of Ireland said his country was pledging \$10 million to a new effort “to protect the most vulnerable from climate loss and damage.”</p> <p>“The burden of climate change globally is falling most heavily on those least responsible for our predicament,” he said. “We will not see the change we need without climate justice.”</p> <p>Austria’s climate minister said the country would pay 50 million euros, or around \$50 million, to developing countries struggling with climate effects. Belgium joined in, promising \$2.5 million in loss and</p>

damage funding to Mozambique. And Demark said in September that it would spend at least \$13 million paying for loss and damage in developing nations.

Germany made a related move on Monday, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledging \$170 million to a new program that would offer vulnerable nations a form of insurance in the event of climate emergencies.

Other leaders said the time had come for real loss and damage funding.

“I support governments paying money for loss and damage and adaptation, but let’s be very clear that that’s a matter of billions or tens of billions,” Al Gore, former vice president of the United States, said on Monday.

Shortly after Mr. Gore spoke, President Emmanuel Macron of France said that Europe was already helping poorer countries, and that other Western nations needed to do more. “Europeans are paying,” he said. “We are the only ones paying.”

“Pressure must be put on rich non-European countries, telling them, ‘You have to pay your fair share,’” Mr. Macron said, in a not-too-veiled reference to the Americans.

But the United States, the world’s richest nation and the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, was conspicuously absent from the discussions on loss and damage.

John Kerry, President Biden’s climate envoy, has agreed to discuss the idea of financing for loss and damage at the climate conference, but the United States has not agreed to a new fund.

“We are anxious to see the loss and damage issue dealt with upfront and in a real way at the COP,” a spokesman for Mr. Kerry said as the conference began. “We anticipate that it will be an agenda item, and we’re perfectly comfortable helping it to be that — which means, at some point, you’ve got to have an outcome.”

Still, no strategy was offered on Tuesday by the United States delegation. Instead, Mr. Kerry plans to unveil on Wednesday a new plan designed to get big corporations to purchase carbon offsets — essentially, credits for their greenhouse gas pollution. The money would go toward driving down emissions in developing nations by retiring fossil fuel plants, creating renewable energy and building resilience to climate effects.

The initiative has been met with skepticism from some European nations as well as members of the U.N. secretary general’s staff, because they felt the plan lacked details and was being rushed, according to multiple people familiar with the discussions.

Some of the most influential environmental groups in the United States who were briefed by the State Department on the strategy, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the World Resources Institute, also do not support the plan because they fear it could actually undermine efforts to drive down global emissions to zero, activists said.

The mixed efforts by Western nations came as leaders from developing countries continued to call for financial compensation.

“We need to put together the loss and damage fund we have been speaking about for years,” President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela said during a fiery speech. He denounced capitalism and the extraction of natural resources as the causes of climate change, but made no mention of his own country’s history as an oil producer.

Kausea Natano, the prime minister of Tuvalu, said his nation was “the Pacific region’s champion of loss and damage” and called for “a secure, guaranteed loss and damage facility.”

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, detailed the continuing recovery following extraordinary floods this summer that killed an estimated 1,700 people and left one-third of his country underwater. “This all happened despite our very low carbon footprint,” he said. “Loss and damage needs to be part of the core agenda of COP27.”

And Cleopas Dlamini, the prime minister of Eswatini, previously known as Swaziland, said countries like his were having such a hard time recovering from one climate disaster that it was getting difficult to prepare for the next one.

“We have come to a point where the urgency to mitigate and adapt is being overshadowed by the need to deal with the loss and damage we are already facing and experiencing,” Mr. Dlamini said, “hence the need for a loss and damage financing facility.”

Other African leaders made similar remarks, emphasizing that their countries could not afford the cost of adapting to climate change or mitigating extreme weather disasters.

When asked on Tuesday if the delegates from nearly 200 nations would end the two-week conference with an agreement on a loss and damage fund, Ms. Sturgeon of Scotland was skeptical, despite her country’s pledge.

“I would like to say yes,” she said. “I think, realistically, probably not. I hope I’m wrong about that. But I do think it’s really important that we emerge from these two weeks with something tangible and concrete that people can see the end point to an agreement.”

Declining to help the most vulnerable nations, she said, would represent a moral failure on the part of the West.

“This is a really fundamental question of climate justice,” she said. “The rich world has a responsibility here.”

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HEADLINE	11/08 Tropical storm to hurricane towards Florida
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/article/subtropical-storm-nicole-hurricane.html
GIST	<p>Tropical Storm Nicole continued to strengthen as it barreled toward the northwestern Bahamas, meteorologists said, and was expected to reach hurricane strength on Wednesday as it approaches the east coast of Florida.</p> <p>Nicole, which formed in the southwestern Atlantic on Monday as a subtropical storm, was packing 70-mile-an-hour winds on Tuesday evening.</p> <p>Hurricane warnings were issued for the northwestern Bahamas and a 200-mile stretch of the Florida coast, according to the National Hurricane Center. The storm was expected to pass over or near the northwestern Bahamas on Wednesday before approaching the east coast of Florida on Wednesday night, the Hurricane Center said.</p> <p>Three to five inches of rain were expected across the northwestern Bahamas and much of Florida through Friday. The center warned that up to eight inches were possible in some locations as the heart of the storm moves across central and northern Florida and into southern Georgia by Thursday night.</p> <p>The Hurricane Center cautioned in a 7 p.m. Eastern time update that the exact path of the storm is uncertain because of the storm’s size.</p> <p>“Do not focus on the exact track of Nicole since it is expected to be a large storm with hazards extending well to the north of the center, outside of the forecast cone,” the Hurricane Center said.</p>

“These hazards are likely to affect much of the Florida peninsula and portions of the Southeast United States.”

Emergency management officials in the Bahamas urged people in the affected areas to evacuate and secure their homes — and even to designate next of kin. A dozen emergency shelters opened on the Abaco Islands and 16 on Grand Bahama Island.

Among the people seeking shelter was Minnie Johnson, of Dundas Town in the Abacos. Ms. Johnson, 72, rode out [Hurricane Dorian](#) at home with her children and grandchildren when it slammed ashore as a Category 5 storm in September 2019, killing 74 people. The back of her house still has no windows, she said.

By 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, the effects of Nicole were already being felt in parts of the Abacos.

“Water levels are rising around the clinic in Cooper’s Town,” Stephen Russel, the director of the Bahamas’ National Emergency Management Agency, said at a news conference. “So again, with the spring tide and the eventual surge that can come from the storm passing that way, the water levels can present a challenge to persons trying to move around at the last minute.”

In the United States, a hurricane warning, meaning hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours, was issued for the east coast of Florida, from Boca Raton to the Flagler-Volusia county line. A hurricane watch, meaning that hurricane conditions were possible within 48 hours, and tropical storm warning were in effect for other parts of the state, including Lake Okeechobee and from Hallandale Beach to Boca Raton.

Tropical storm watches and warnings were in effect for parts of Georgia and Florida, as was a storm surge warning, meaning there was a danger of life-threatening floodwater moving inland.

The storm is expected to strengthen into a Category 1 hurricane as it approaches the Florida peninsula, said Jamie Rhome, acting director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

It is expected to “go across the state and then hook back,” he said. That trajectory means that “regardless of where the center tracks, a good portion of the Florida peninsula will feel some of the impact” of wind and rain from the storm, Mr. Rhome said.

Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida [declared a state of emergency](#) on Monday for 34 counties that could be in the path of the storm, authorizing the state’s emergency management division to pursue emergency measures and seek federal assistance.

Florida Power & Light, which has 5.8 million customers statewide, [urged customers](#) to prepare for power outages. Nicole is arriving a little more than a month after [Hurricane Ian came ashore](#) on Florida’s west coast as a Category 4 storm, and F.P.L. officials warned that it could topple storm-weakened trees causing outages.

Evacuation orders were issued for parts of Palm Beach County, including barrier islands and low-lying areas. The county’s mayor, Robert Weinroth, said at a news conference that nine emergency shelters would open on Wednesday morning.

Officials in Volusia County, which is home to Daytona Beach, also [announced](#) mandatory evacuation orders beginning Wednesday morning, including for people who live in mobile homes and in low-lying areas, and for those who live east of Interstate 95 and the Intracoastal Waterway.

At the Kennedy Space Center, NASA officials elected to keep its 322-foot-tall Space Launch System rocket and Orion capsule [on the launchpad](#) ahead of a test flight for a spacecraft that will one day carry astronauts to the moon. However, [NASA said on Twitter](#) on Tuesday that it was moving the scheduled

launch to Nov. 16 from Nov. 14 “pending safe conditions for employees to return to work” after the storm.

Nicole is the third named storm to form in the Atlantic since Halloween and the second this month. Though it may seem rare to have a named storm this late in the hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, half of the seasons since 1966 have had at least one named storm form in November, said Phil Klotzbach, a senior research scientist at Colorado State University.

Nicole’s winds stretch out 380 miles from the center of the storm, according to an update from the Hurricane Center on Tuesday afternoon. The widespread strong winds pose a dual threat of dangerous winds and flooding.

Storm surge could reach three to five feet, and as much as six feet in spots along a large portion of Florida’s east coast. The large wind field will consistently push water against the east coast of Florida and Georgia, bringing the risk of coastal flooding to a very populated region.

The links between hurricanes and climate change have become clearer with each passing year. Data shows that [hurricanes have become stronger worldwide](#) during the past four decades. A warming planet can expect stronger hurricanes over time, and a higher incidence of the most powerful storms — though the overall number of storms could drop, because factors like stronger wind shear could keep weaker storms from forming.

Hurricanes are also becoming wetter because of more water vapor in the warmer atmosphere; scientists have suggested storms like [Hurricane Harvey in 2017](#) produced far more rain than they would have without the human effects on climate. Also, rising sea levels are contributing to higher storm surge — the most destructive element of tropical cyclones.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Air war over Ukraine heats up
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/08/world/europe/ukraine-russia-iran-missiles.html
GIST	<p>KYIV, Ukraine — As Ukrainian officials celebrate the arrival of more advanced Western air-defense systems and claim growing success at shooting down Russian rockets and drones, they are warning that Moscow is buying new long-range weapons against which Kyiv’s forces have little defense — specifically, ballistic missiles from Iran.</p> <p>With movement on the ground slowing, the battle in the skies above Ukraine is increasingly central to the course of the war, and both sides are looking to their allies for new weapons. In the past month, Moscow’s forces have dramatically stepped up strikes far behind the front lines on cities and vital services like power, heat and water. These are part of a lethal campaign to tear down Ukrainian daily life and morale.</p> <p>Ukrainian and Western officials say Russia’s stocks of precision-guided missiles and drones have run low, prompting it to turn to Iran. A spokesman for the Ukrainian Air Force said on Monday that Moscow and Tehran had finalized an agreement to deliver Iranian Fateh-110 and Zolfaghar ballistic missiles to Russia, which several news organizations confirmed, citing unnamed sources.</p> <p>A Pentagon spokesman, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, said on Tuesday, “I can’t corroborate that information,” but he called the reports worrying. He added, “When we see Iranian ballistic missiles being employed on the battlefield in Ukraine, we will do what we can to illuminate that.”</p> <p>Ukrainian air defenses have been highly successful at shooting down drones and cruise missiles, though some get through and cause enormous damage, but ballistic missiles, which fly much faster, are a tougher challenge. This week, the United States and its allies delivered to Ukraine its first two NASAMS air defense missile launchers, with more on the way, adding to Kyiv’s growing arsenal of Western and Soviet-legacy air defense systems. But the new additions are not designed to be effective against ballistic missiles.</p>

“As of today, we can say that the recent escalation of Russian missile and drone terror has only resulted in the world responding — responding with new aid to Ukraine,” President Volodymyr Zelensky said in his overnight address on Monday.

He and his aides signaled that their position on peace with Russia, far from softening, was harder than ever, after reports that behind the scenes, the Biden administration had urged Kyiv to be open to negotiation.

Mr. Zelensky laid out in stark terms his conditions for any talks with Russia, terms that would be seen by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia as a humiliating defeat: restoration of Ukraine’s “territorial integrity,” meaning the return of Russian-occupied lands, compensation for the damage caused by Russia’s war and prosecutions for war crimes. World leaders, he said, should “force Russia into genuine peace negotiations.”

Ukraine had “repeatedly proposed” a resumption of peace talks, Mr. Zelensky said, only to have Russia respond “with new terrorist attacks, shelling or blackmail.” No such talks have occurred in several months.

Oleksiy Danilov, the head of the Ukrainian national security council, added another condition on Tuesday: modern weaponry for Ukraine to defend itself.

One of Mr. Zelensky’s top advisers, Mykhailo Podolyak, [tweeted](#) that while “Ukraine has never refused to negotiate,” talks could not begin until Russian troops withdrew from Ukraine. He added that since Mr. Putin did not appear ready to do so, “we will talk with the next leader” of Russia.

The United States government has insisted publicly that how long and hard Ukraine will fight is up to its leaders, not Washington’s, a point General Ryder reiterated. “Ukraine will decide when they’re ready to negotiate,” he said.

The British news outlet [Sky News reported](#) on Tuesday that in addition to buying Iranian munitions, Russia had sent Iran sophisticated Western antitank and antiaircraft missiles that were captured in Ukraine, presumably for the Iranians to copy. General Ryder said he knew of the report but could not confirm or deny it.

Some models of Iranian missiles have ranges of several hundred miles. Fired from Russian-controlled territory, Iran’s missiles could strike anywhere in Ukraine.

Iran has indicated that it planned to sell ballistic missiles to Russia. It has also denied selling attack drones, though the wreckage of them has now been found many times in Ukraine, and social media accounts associated with the Iranian security services have boasted of their use there.

Maj. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, head of Ukraine’s defense intelligence directorate, has said delivery of Iranian missiles could happen by the end of November.

“It’s a serious threat because Iranian missiles, unlike Russian ones, are quite high-precision, very high-speed, and those features have been battle-proven,” he said in a recent interview with the War Zone, an online publication focused on military matters.

In the weeks after Russia invaded in February, Ukraine’s critical need was portable antitank missiles to stop the advance. After the Russian offensive slowed into a grinding strategy of shelling cities and towns before trying to take them, the Ukrainians needed more and better artillery. Now it is air defenses.

Ukraine has been asking Western countries for systems that can shoot down ballistic missiles, which travel at several times the speed of sound, making them much harder to hit in flight than cruise missiles or slow-moving drones. General Budanov referred to the possibility of weapons that could strike missile launch

	<p>sites, but the United States and others have been reluctant to give Ukraine the means to hit targets inside Russia, which the Kremlin has warned would be a dangerous escalation.</p> <p>Ultramodern German IRIS-T air-defense systems — so new that they had never before been used on the battlefield — were extremely effective in shooting down missiles fired by Russia during a wave of strikes at the end of October, according to the Ukrainian military. But that system and the NASAMS are not designed to defend against ballistic missiles, and are expensive to use against relatively cheap drones.</p> <p>Ukrainian officials estimate that Russia has used up about 80 percent of its prewar supply of precision weapons like Iskander ballistic missiles and Kalibr cruise missiles.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 NKorea fires ballistic missile into sea
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/europe-seoul-south-korea-north-de6f5a6272f0bcf1d3e177c8cce574ac
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile toward its eastern sea on Wednesday, extending a recent barrage of weapons demonstrations including what it described as simulated attacks on South Korean and U.S. targets last week.</p> <p>Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was launched from the western town of Sukchon, north of the capital, Pyongyang, and flew across the country toward waters off the North’s eastern coast.</p> <p>The South Korean and Japanese militaries assessed that the missile flew about 250 to 290 kilometers (155 to 180 miles) at a maximum altitude of 30 to 50 kilometers (18 to 30 miles). The relatively low trajectory seemed to align with the flight characteristics of some of North Korea’s newer short-range weapons designed to evade missile defenses.</p> <p>Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the missile landed in waters outside of the country’s exclusive economic zone. He said North Korea’s intensifying testing activity was “significantly heightening” regional tensions and that Japan lodged a protest with the North through their embassies in Beijing.</p> <p>South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said its nuclear envoy, Kim Gunn, held separate telephone calls with his U.S. and Japanese counterparts to discuss trilateral cooperation to counter North Korea’s increasing weapons tests and growing nuclear threat. South Korean officials say the North could attempt to further raise pressure by conducting its first nuclear test since 2017 in coming weeks.</p> <p>The launch came after North Korea fired dozens of missiles last week in an angry reaction to a massive combined aerial exercise between the United States and South Korea that the North described as an invasion rehearsal.</p> <p>Earlier Wednesday, South Korea’s military said the recovered debris of one of the North Korean missiles that flew southward last week was determined to be a Soviet-era anti-aircraft weapon that dates back to the 1960s.</p> <p>The North’s military said on Monday that its launches last week were simulations to “mercilessly” strike key South Korean and U.S. targets such as air bases and operation command systems.</p> <p>It said those tests included ballistic missiles loaded with dispersion warheads and underground infiltration warheads meant to launch strikes on enemy air bases, ground-to-air missiles designed to “annihilate” enemy aircraft at different altitudes and distances, and strategic cruise missiles that fell off South Korea’s southeastern coast.</p> <p>The North described those launches as an appropriate response to the United States and South Korea’s “Vigilant Storm” joint air force drills that wrapped up Saturday, which involved some 240 warplanes, including B-1B supersonic bombers and advanced F-35 fighter jets.</p>

This week, South Korea's military has been conducting annual command post exercises meant to enhance crisis management and operational capabilities to cope with growing North Korean threats. The four-day training is to last until Thursday.

Wednesday's launch also came as vote counting in the U.S. midterm elections was underway. Some experts earlier said the results of the U.S. elections would not likely change the Biden administration's policies on North Korea.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Wednesday that an analysis of a 3-meter (9.8 foot)-long piece of wreckage fetched from waters near the Koreas' eastern sea boundary on Sunday showed it was one of North Korea's SA-5 surface-to-air missiles. The ministry said a similar missile was used by the Russian military to execute ground attacks during its invasion of Ukraine.

Photos released by the South Korean military show what appears to be a mangled rocket engine and wires sticking out from a broken rocket body that is still attached with fins.

The missile, which was one of more than 20 missiles North Korea fired last Wednesday, flew in the direction of a populated South Korean island and landed near the rivals' tense sea border, triggering air raid sirens and forcing residents on Ulleung island to evacuate.

The South Korean Defense Ministry said it "strongly" condemns the North Korea's firing of the SA-5, which it sees as a violation of a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement on reducing tensions.

The dozens of missiles North Korea fired last week also included an intercontinental ballistic missile that triggered evacuation warnings and halted trains in northern Japan.

Some experts say it's possible that North Korea reached into the inventory of some of its older weapons to support the expanded scale of last week's launches.

The launches added to North Korea's record pace in weapons testing this year as leader Kim Jong Un exploits the distraction created by Russia's war on Ukraine to accelerate arms development and ramp up pressure on the United States and its regional allies.

"The North Koreans would want to display their range of missile technologies through these tests, but not all launches have to reveal the latest technological advancements," said Soo Kim, a security analyst from California-based RAND Corporation.

"It may be in North Korea's interest to hold some of its modern capabilities in reserve and test them at opportune occasions. Kim, again, is playing a longer game, so to reveal all of his cards – the different types of missiles and capabilities his country has acquired – would not work to his favor," she said.

Nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of U.S.-led sanctions against the North and the North's disarmament steps. North Korea has so far rejected U.S. offers of open-ended talks, insisting that Washington must abandon its "hostile" policy first, a term the North mainly uses to refer to sanctions and U.S.-South Korea military drills.

The North has also aligned with Russia over the war in Ukraine while also blaming the United States for the crisis, saying that the West's "hegemonic policy" has forced Russia to take military action to protect its security interests. However, the North has denied U.S. assessments that it has been sending large supplies of artillery shells and other ammunition to Russia to support the war efforts.

"We regard such moves of the U.S. as part of its hostile attempt to tarnish the image of (North Korea) in the international arena," an unidentified vice director at the ministry's military foreign affairs office said in a statement carried by state media on Monday.

HEADLINE	11/09 'Red wave'? More like a red ripple
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/2022-midterm-elections-takeaways-9381d3aaff26d19da95506e045fcd6e1
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (AP) — For weeks, Republicans predicted a “red wave” would carry them to power in Congress, as voters repudiated majority Democrats for failing to tame skyrocketing inflation and address worries about rising crime.</p> <p>The reality appeared far different early Wednesday.</p> <p>Rather than a wholesale rejection of President Joe Biden and his party, the results were far more mixed as returns from Tuesday’s midterms trickled in.</p> <p>Many Democratic incumbents proved surprisingly resilient, outperforming their party’s own expectations. Meanwhile, Democrat John Fetterman won an open Senate seat currently held by the GOP, while other key races that will determine control of the chamber remain too early to call.</p> <p>“When you wake up tomorrow, we will be in the majority and Nancy Pelosi will be in the minority,” House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy predicted early Wednesday.</p> <p>He may be right. But it appeared that likely Republican gains would come on far less favorable terms than anticipated.</p> <p>Here are some takeaways from this year’s election:</p> <p>TO BE CONTINUED ...</p> <p>Republicans hoped for a wipeout. They didn’t get it. After Democrats racked up several hard-fought wins in swing districts, like Rep. Abigail Spanberger’s Virginia seat, the sweeping wins many Republicans predicted had yet to materialize early Wednesday.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the fate of Democrats narrow hold on the Senate was unclear.</p> <p>Fetterman defeated Dr. Mehmet Oz for a crucial Pennsylvania Senate seat vacated by retiring Republican Sen. Pat Toomey. Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock and former NFL star Herschel Walker, a Republican, were locked in a close contest in Georgia. The Wisconsin race between Republican Sen. Ron Johnson and Democrat Mandela Barnes was too close to call.</p> <p>And the outcome of the two remaining two seats that will determine which party will hold a Senate majority — Arizona and Nevada — may not be known for days because both states conduct elections in part by mail ballots, which take a long time to count.</p> <p>Stay tuned.</p> <p>HISTORY LESSON</p> <p>It’s called history for a reason. The party that celebrates winning the White House is usually mourning a loss in the midterms two years later.</p> <p>Add to that historical pattern an economy battered by inflation and teetering on recession, throw in fears about crime, and the outcome is close to certain.</p> <p>For Biden and House Democrats, the likelihood of keeping power in the lower chamber of Congress was always slight. Republicans have expected to gain enough seats to retake the majority. If successful, which was not immediately clear Wednesday morning, they also have plans to neuter Biden’s agenda for the next two years.</p>

Since 1906, there have been only three midterms in which the party of the president in power gained House seats: 1934, when the country was struggling with a Depression, 1998 when the U.S. was buoyed by a soaring economy, and 2002, when President George W. Bush had a sky-high approval rating amid the national feeling of unity after the Sept. 11 attacks.

IS FLORIDA STILL A SWING STATE?

Gov. Ron DeSantis and Sen. Marco Rubio, both Republicans, offer the latest evidence that Florida is becoming increasingly red. The two soared to early reelection victories Tuesday, both winning Miami-Dade County, which Democrat Hillary Clinton carried by 29 percentage points in 2016.

Florida has been a classic battleground. It twice helped propel Barack Obama to the White House. But the state, where the number of registered Democrats exceeded Republicans in 2020, has shifted increasingly to the right. That's thanks to GOP inroads with Hispanic voters, as well as an influx of new residents, including many retirees, drawn to its lack of an income tax as well as its sunny weather.

"Democrats really have to think about how they are going to rebuild there. The Obama coalition no longer exists," said Carlos Curbelo, a Republican former member of Congress, who called Florida "off the map for the foreseeable future" to Democrats.

DeSantis won the governor's office in 2018 by only about 30,000 votes. On Tuesday, he flipped at least six counties that he lost that year. Those same counties were carried by Biden just two years ago. Some Democrats blame some of Tuesday's blowout losses to a lack of investment by their party.

"This is what happens when national Democrats decide to not spend money in the state," said Greg Goddard, a Democratic fundraising consultant from Florida who raised money for Rep. Val Demings' losing challenge of Rubio. "The pathway to Democrats winning future presidential elections is very thin if you do not plan to spend in Florida

WAS IT A 'RED WAVE' OR A RIPPLE?

Whether a red ripple will carry Republicans won't likely be known for days or weeks as states that conduct their elections largely by mail, such as California, continue counting votes.

One thing is certain: It's unlikely to match 2010's tea party wave, which netted 63 seats, or the Newt Gingrich-led House takeover of 1994, which ousted 54 Democrats and flipped the chamber to GOP control for the first time since the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower.

One reason that won't happen? There just aren't that many competitive seats.

The end result? Far less interest in compromise and more gridlock in the halls of Congress.

WHAT DO REPUBLICANS WANT?

Gingrich's "Contract with America" was celebrated as a cornerstone of the Republicans' 1994 House takeover for offering a concrete list of policies the GOP would pursue if put in power.

Now Republicans are far more circumspect about their aims.

"That's a very good question. And I'll let you know when we take it back," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell he told reporters in January.

McCarthy has offered up a "Commitment to America," a list of priorities that fits on a pocket-sized card he carries with him that is heavy on slogans and light on detail.

Both may be attempting to avoid the plight of Gingrich whose "Contract with America" became a liability when Republicans failed to enact it.

House Republicans have said they intend to investigate Biden and his administration. They have also called for a renewed focus on fiscal restraint, a crackdown on illegal immigration at the southern border and increased domestic energy production.

Much of it may not matter. Biden, after all, has a veto pen.

MOST EXPENSIVE MIDTERMS

The 2022 elections are on track to cost \$16.7 billion at the state and federal level, making them the most expensive midterms ever, according to the nonpartisan OpenSecrets.

For perspective: The contests will nearly double the cost of the 2010 midterm elections, more than double the 2014 midterms and are on pace to roughly equal the 2022 gross domestic product of Mongolia.

At least \$1.1 billion given at the federal level so far this election season has come from a small coterie of donors, many of whom have favored conservative causes.

“When you look at the top 25 individual donors, conservative donors heavily outweigh liberal donors by \$200 million,” said Brendan Glavin, a senior data analyst for OpenSecrets. “There’s a big skew.”

Tech billionaire Peter Thiel (\$32.6 million), shipping goods magnate Richard Uihlein (\$80.7 million), hedge fund manager Ken Griffin (68.5 million) and Timothy Mellon, an heir to a Gilded Age Fortune who gave \$40 million, are among the top conservative donors.

On the liberal side, hedge fund founder George Soros gave the most (\$128 million), though much of it has yet to be spent. Sam Bankman Fried, a liberal 30-year-old cryptocurrency billionaire, gave \$39.8 million.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Congo planes bombing M23 rebel targets
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-congo-war-planes-bombing-m23-rebel-targets-92873332
GIST	<p>GOMA, Congo -- Congolese fighter jets began bombing rebel targets Tuesday in the country's embattled east, escalating its fight against the M23 group that the government alleges has been advancing with help from neighboring Rwanda.</p> <p>Jean Claude Bambaze, president of Rutshuru's civil society, told The Associated Press that aerial bombardments were reported in the villages of Chanzu and Musungati, about 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Rutshuru.</p> <p>“We are seeing the comings and goings of Congolese warplanes,” he said. “We call on the Congolese government to finish quickly with this M23 affair, because people have already fled their homes and others are confined in camps without humanitarian assistance.”</p> <p>There was no immediate confirmation or comment from the Congolese military on the reported aerial bombardments. However, M23 spokesman Lawrence Kanyuka accused the army of attacking heavily populated areas and “trampling on the call for dialogue.”</p> <p>“This warmongering option is counterproductive and puts the lives of many citizens in the areas under our control in extreme danger and exacerbates the humanitarian situation in the region,” Kanyuka said in a statement.</p> <p>Neighboring Rwanda has long denied providing support to the M23, which re-emerged a year ago after being mostly dormant for a decade. The rebel group has rapidly advanced in recent weeks, doubling the amount of territory it controls.</p> <p>In a show of force, Congo's military began training some 3,000 new recruits on Monday in Goma.</p>

HEADLINE	11/08 Fighting in Ethiopia's Oromia kills dozens
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/witnesses-fighting-ethiopias-romia-kills-dozens-92888741
GIST	<p>NAIROBI, Kenya -- Intense fighting between Ethiopian government forces and Oromo Liberation Army rebels in the country's Oromia region has led to "several dozen" casualties in the past week, witnesses tell The Associated Press.</p> <p>The fighting in Oromia, the largest of Ethiopia's federal states, intensified as peace efforts were ending a larger, separate conflict between government and Tigray forces in northern Ethiopia.</p> <p>A witness in the West Wollega area town of Bila said he saw bodies scattered on the ground following an alleged aerial attack on Nov. 2 by what he described as a "small flying plane" or possible drone.</p> <p>"It was a market day, and students were leaving school," the witness said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution. "I have lost count of the dead, but several dozen people were killed and injured."</p> <p>Witnesses in recent attacks in Oromia have blamed Ethiopian forces.</p> <p>A priest in Bila said his church members buried 11 victims of what he described as a drone attack. He said hundreds of people were injured and sent to nearby hospitals.</p> <p>The attack was followed by heavy fighting Sunday morning between Ethiopian forces and the rebels in the town of Nekemte in the East Wollega area, a witness said, adding that government forces retook control of the town in the afternoon.</p> <p>The spokesman for the Oromo Liberation Army, Odaa Tarbii, tweeted that the rebel group's fighters "rescued over 120 political prisoners" during an operation in Nekemte on Sunday. It claimed "several regime military installations" there were destroyed.</p> <p>Ethiopian government spokesman Legesse Tulu didn't respond to questions about the latest fighting. The government has accused the Oromo Liberation Army of carrying out mass killings in recent months.</p> <p>The OLA was once a military wing of an opposition party, the Oromo Liberation Front. Its members returned to Ethiopia in 2018 after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed invited exiled groups and political figures to come back. However, the military wing detached from the party soon after and began deadly confrontations with government forces.</p> <p>The OLA asserts that it stands for the security and self-determination of the Oromo people, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group. Ethiopia has labeled it a terrorist organization.</p> <p>The conflict in Oromia is separate from the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region, but the OLA and Tigray forces announced an alliance late last year aimed at toppling the Ethiopian government.</p> <p>A "permanent cessation of hostilities" in the Tigray conflict was signed last week, and a second round of peace talks is underway this week in neighboring Kenya.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Key fuel depot in Haiti reopens
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/key-fuel-depot-haiti-reopens-1st-time-september-92912341
GIST	<p>PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Dozens of trucks lined up at a main fuel terminal in Haiti's capital Tuesday to fill up their tanks for the first time since a powerful gang seized control of the area nearly two months ago.</p>

The drivers were protected by a heavily armed police convoy formed two days after gang boss Jimmy Cherizier, a former police officer nicknamed “Barbecue,” announced that the G9 gang federation he leads was lifting a fuel blockade and allowing drivers to fill up at the depot.

Government officials said that gas stations, which have been closed since mid-September, would be resupplied Wednesday through Friday and open to customers on Saturday.

“Now we can breathe,” said Gabriel Salny, a truck driver who was relieved to be again working and earning money. “Hunger almost killed me.”

He said the fuel blockade “had an impact on the country, on all Haitians.”

Officials with the Varreux terminal said 45 trucks were supplied with more than 300,000 gallons of diesel and more than 39,000 gallons of gasoline Tuesday.

It wasn’t immediately clear if the gang federation retained control of the area surrounding the depot in Port-au-Prince that contains about 10 million gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline and more than 800,000 gallons of kerosene.

On Monday, Haiti’s Ministry of Defense issued a statement saying that soldiers and police seized control of the fuel terminal after 16 operations as it congratulated those efforts.

The situation had prompted Prime Minister Ariel Henry to request the immediate deployment of foreign troops in early October, a request that the U.N. Security Council has yet to vote on. So far, the Security Council has only voted to place sanctions on Cherizier.

If gas stations open as planned, hospitals and businesses including banks and grocery stores are expected to resume normal operations.

The government has not said whether an increase in fuel prices announced in September would remain in place. At the time, Henry said his administration could no longer afford to subsidize fuel, sparking large protests and the fuel blockade by the G9 gang federation that demanded the prime minister’s resignation.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Airstrike on Iraq-Syria fuel convoy kills 10
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/strike-fuel-convoy-iraq-syria-kill-10-92922708
GIST	<p>BAGHDAD -- An air strike on a convoy carrying fuel across the Iraqi border into Syria killed at least 10 people late Tuesday, members of paramilitary groups operating in the area said.</p> <p>The strike hit a convoy of about 15 trucks that had crossed from Iraq into Syria near Al-Qaim, two paramilitary officials told The Associated Press.</p> <p>It was not immediately clear who carried out the attack. It also was not immediately clear where the convoy was coming from, but the paramilitary officials said some of those killed were Iranian.</p> <p>The strike came a day after a U.S. citizen, 45-year-old Stephen Edward Troell, was fatally shot in central Baghdad.</p> <p>Troell, a native of Tennessee, was killed by unknown assailants in his car as he pulled up to the street where he lived with his family in Baghdad’s central Karrada district. It was a rare killing of a foreigner in Iraq in recent years, as security conditions have improved.</p> <p>No group claimed responsibility for Troell’s killing. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, less than two weeks in office, ordered an investigation.</p>

	<p>At a news conference Tuesday, Sudani insinuated that the attack may have been perpetrated by rivals intending on undermine his premiership, adding, "Those who want to test our government in terms of security will fail."</p> <p>The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad said it was closely monitoring the investigation by Iraqi authorities, but declined to comment further.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Seoul: NKorea SA-5 anti-air missile debris
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/seoul-recovered-korean-missile-anti-aircraft-weapon-92949346
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea says the recovered debris of a North Korean missile fired toward the South amid a barrage of sea launches last week was determined to be a Soviet-era anti-aircraft weapon that dates back to the 1960s.</p> <p>South Korea's Defense Ministry said Wednesday that an analysis of the 3-meter (9.8 foot)-long wreckage fetched from waters near the Koreas' eastern sea boundary on Sunday showed it was one of North Korea's SA-5 surface-to-air missiles. The ministry said a similar missile was used by the Russian military to execute ground attacks during its invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>Photos released by the South Korean military showed what appeared to be a mangled rocket engine and wires sticking out from a broken rocket body that was still attached with fins.</p> <p>The missile, which was one of more than 20 missiles North Korea fired last Wednesday, flew in the direction of a populated South Korean island and landed near the rivals' tense sea border, triggering air raid sirens and forcing residents on Ulleung island to evacuate.</p> <p>The South Korean Defense Ministry said it "strongly" condemns the North Korea's firing of the SA-5, which it sees as a violation of a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement on reducing tensions.</p> <p>North Korea fired dozens of missiles last week, including an intercontinental ballistic missile that triggered evacuation warnings in northern Japan, in an angry reaction to a massive combined aerial exercise between the United States and South Korea that the North described as an invasion rehearsal.</p> <p>Some experts say it's possible that North Korea reached into the inventory of some of its older weapons to support the expanded scale of last week's launches, which the North described as simulated attacks on key South Korean and U.S. targets such as air bases and operation command systems.</p> <p>The launches added to North Korea's record pace in weapons testing this year as leader Kim Jong Un exploits the distraction created by Russia's war on Ukraine to accelerate arms development and ramp up pressure on the United States and its regional allies.</p> <p>"The North Koreans would want to display their range of missile technologies through these tests, but not all launches have to reveal the latest technological advancements," said Soo Kim, a security analyst from California-based RAND Corporation.</p> <p>"It may be in North Korea's interest to hold some of its modern capabilities in reserve and test them at opportune occasions. Kim, again, is playing a longer game, so to reveal all of his cards – the different types of missiles and capabilities his country has acquired – would not work to his favor," she said.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Ukraine asks US assistance to fight drones
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/ukraine-asks-us-capabilities-fighting-iranian-drones/story?id=92826420

ABC News has obtained a letter sent by a top Ukrainian official to senior members of Congress, asking them to assist Ukraine's calls for additional air defense systems to counter the [attack drones built and supplied by Iran](#) to bolster Russia's war effort.

Russia has launched waves of deadly attacks in recent weeks, using Iranian-made drones that explode on impact to strike power plants, killing civilians and causing rolling blackouts, plunging millions of Ukrainian homes into darkness.

In the letter, the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, Ruslan Stefanchuk, calls on the U.S. to provide Ukraine with highly mobile air defense systems known as C-RAMs, saying they would help protect "important objects, especially crucial power plants."

C-RAMs have a built-in radar to track incoming threats and a giant rapid-fire gun to shoot them down, with NATO saying the "most effective" systems are able to fire 4,500 rounds per minute.

A senior Ukrainian politician told ABC News that the Ukrainian government has also made an official request to the Biden administration for the C-RAMs systems.

ABC contacted the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense for comment. The Pentagon does not comment on specific Ukrainian requests for weaponry.

However, Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Garron Garn told ABC News this week that U.S. support "focuses on equipment that is relevant for the current fight."

"We are working around the clock to fulfill Ukraine's priority security assistance requests, delivering weapons from U.S. stocks when they are available," he added.

As things stand, Ukrainian officials say they are using an array of methods to shoot down the drones.

Ukrainian fighter jets are being used to track them and, in some instances, shoot them down, according to the Ukrainian politician who has been briefed on the matter.

"We are using all kinds of different stuff [to destroy the Iranian drones]," the source told ABC News, adding that the Ukrainian military even sometimes resorts to shoulder-launched anti-tank weapons to counter the threat.

The White House last month indicated that Russia is launching Iranian-supplied drones from Crimea, a peninsula to the south of mainland Ukraine that was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

The White House National Security Council spokesperson, John Kirby, also said at the time that a "relatively small number" of Iranian personnel had been on the ground in Crimea to assist the Russians in how to operate the drones.

The drones fly slowly, giving the Ukrainian military a matter of hours from the moment they are launched from Crimea, through to when they reach their targets, Ukrainian officials said.

However, Ukrainian officials said the drones are able to change trajectory mid-flight, making it harder for the military to position assets that could shoot them down.

In his letter, Stefanchuk also asks senior U.S. lawmakers to assist him in asking the Biden administration to provide longer-range missiles so that the Ukrainian military could destroy targets such as "stocks of Iranian drones, deep behind the enemy lines on the occupied territory of Ukraine."

On Monday, Ukraine's defense minister announced that advanced air defense systems for countering Russian missiles and rockets, called NASAMS, had arrived in Ukraine. A senior U.S. official confirmed that two systems were delivered to Ukraine.

The U.S. announced in August that it promised another six NASAMS launchers to Ukraine, but it could be some time until they arrive in the country.

A Ukrainian government source said the Ukrainian government was talking to all of its partners, including the U.S., about creating a "comprehensive and wide" air defense system "all across Ukraine."

"We're not talking about a few systems near the front lines," the official added. "If we have this [comprehensive air defense] system, this war can end sooner and that's in all of our interests."

Last month, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley called the project a priority.

At a NATO meeting, he stressed that air defense systems would have to be provided to Ukraine by a number of countries.

"The task is then to bring those together, get them deployed, get them [the Ukrainians] trained, because each of these systems is different," Milley said.

Last weekend, after weeks of denials, Iran finally acknowledged that it has supplied Russia with drones.

However, Iran's foreign minister claimed Tehran only sold a relatively small number of drones to Russia and did so before President Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February.

He also claimed that Iran had no knowledge that the drones were being used to attack Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Iran of "lying."

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Cyber, Tech Awareness

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HEADLINE	11/09 Facebook parent Meta to cut 11,000 jobs
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/facebook-parent-meta-to-cut-11-000-jobs-11667992427?mod=hp_lead_pos1 https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/nov/08/meta-layoffs-facebook-mark-zuckerberg
GIST	<p>Meta Platforms Inc. said it would cut more than 11,000 workers, or 13% of staff, embarking on the company's first broad restructuring to cope with a slumping digital-ad market and falling stock price.</p> <p>Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg confirmed to executives that the company will begin laying off employees on Wednesday morning, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.</p> <p>Zuckerberg addressed hundreds of executives at the company on Tuesday morning, foreshadowing large cuts. He mentioned recruiting and business teams as groups that would see layoffs, according to the WSJ, adding an internal announcement of the company's layoff plans is expected around 6am eastern time on Wednesday.</p> <p>Zuckerberg said he was accountable for the company's downturn, people familiar with the meeting told the newspaper, with overoptimism about growth leading to overstaffing.</p> <p>Meta's head of human resources, Lori Goler, said employees who lose their jobs will be provided with at least four months of salary as severance, the WSJ reported, citing people familiar with the matter.</p> <p>Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, reported more than 87,000 employees at the end of September.</p>

	<p>The tech industry has been suffering through a severe slowdown in recent months, following a spike of success as the world moved indoors during the pandemic. A global economic downturn, rising interest rates and regulatory struggles have moved tech companies including Alphabet and Amazon to slow or stop hiring. In late August, Snap laid off 1,300 staff and cut investments. Microsoft laid off around 1,000 employees across several divisions in October, according to an Axios report. Twitter last week laid off half its workforce following Elon Musk's \$44bn takeover of the company.</p> <p>Meta has seen confusion over the company's future in recent months, as its flagship platform Facebook loses young users and it faces revenue challenges due to changes in Apple's privacy policies. Meanwhile, investors appear still unconvinced by the company's pivot to the metaverse.</p> <p>Last month, investors wiped \$80bn (£69bn) off the company's market value after it reported profits had halved during the third quarter. It was one of the most dramatic devaluations Wall Street has seen since the start of the year.</p> <p>Meta's third quarter results were the latest in a series of disappointing earnings reports. It lost \$230bn in market value in February in the biggest one-day loss in history for a US company.</p> <p>Meta had hinted job cuts were coming, after first announcing a staff hiring freeze and potential restructuring in September.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Report: EU govts used spyware on citizens
SOURCE	https://therecord.media/eu-governments-accused-of-using-spyware-to-cover-up-corruption-and-criminal-activity/
GIST	<p>European Union governments have used “spyware on their citizens for political purposes and to cover up corruption and criminal activity,” according to a new draft report from a committee of the European Parliament.</p> <p>Released on Tuesday, the 159-page report was prompted by reporting from the Pegasus Project, an international journalistic collaboration, which alleged a tool of the same name sold by NSO Group had regularly been used politically, rather than for law enforcement purposes, including against officials within the EU.</p> <p>The committee found there has been an insufficient response to the tool's misuse, accusing the European Council of practicing “omertà” — a code of silence — over the abuses of spyware inside the bloc. It called for the European Commission to conduct “a comprehensive and in-depth investigation into the abuse of and trade in spyware in the EU” alongside a “full-blown inquiry into all allegations and suspicions of the use of spyware against EU Commission officials.”</p> <p>The committee, which focused on “the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware,” has no special investigatory powers, for instance summoning witnesses to testify under oath.</p> <p>Sophie in 't Veld, the Dutch MEP who served as the committee's rapporteur, published the draft report on her website. She complains that no meaningful action is being taken by EU institutions to tackle the abuses highlighted by the report.</p> <p>The committee chair said that the draft of the report has not been finalized and members can still amend certain aspects before it should be considered to represent “the position of the European Parliament as a whole.”</p> <p>The European Commission did propose legislation in September that would protect journalists from being targeted with spyware, but that law has yet to receive the Council's support. Even if it were enacted, it would not cover other targets of the technology.</p>

Regulating in this area is a challenge under EU law. [Article 4 of the Treaty on European Union](#) stresses that “national security remains the sole responsibility of each Member State,” limiting the Commission’s ability to interfere in this realm.

The committee argues there are a number of existing laws that could “serve as regulatory tools with regard to spyware,” including the EU’s privacy and data protection regulations, alongside its laws on export controls for dual-use technologies. However the report says “without proper and meaningful enforcement, EU laws are mere paper tigers that create ample space for the illegitimate use of spyware.”

In ’t Veld complained: “The spyware industry is pan-European, but the European Commission treats it as a purely national matter – leaving the defense of democracy wide open.”

Her committee’s report accuses five states of abusing or facilitating the abuse of the technology in ways that would be considered illegal under the EU’s Charter on Fundamental Rights, including Poland, Hungary, Greece, Spain and Cyprus.

These governments “represent almost a quarter of the EU population, so they carry considerable weight in the Council,” the report says. A spokesperson for the European Council did not respond to The Record’s requests for comment.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis [announced on Monday](#) that his government would ban the use of spyware following reports the technology was used on journalists and politicians, among others.

While the Commission has publicly requested clarification about these allegations from the governments of Poland, Hungary, Spain and Greece — stating that the countries can not simply cite “national security” as “an unlimited carve out from European laws and Treaties” — the report criticized “this timid admonition” and deemed it unlikely that the Commission would engage in any further action. A spokesperson for the Commission also did not respond to a request for comment.

Numerous incidents have emerged across the EU in recent years of opposition figures and journalists being hacked in what appear to be politically-charged circumstances. Many of them were uncovered by the University of Toronto’s interdisciplinary Citizen Lab, including cases in Hungary, Spain’s Catalonia region, and Greece.

Reuters reported in April that senior officials at the European Commission itself had also been targeted by spyware provided by Israeli vendor NSO Group, which was sanctioned by the U.S. last November, partly for being used to target journalists and other illegitimate targets. The company has denied that officials could have been targeted by its tools.

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HEADLINE	11/08 DDoS attack hits Mississippi state websites
SOURCE	https://therecord.media/mississippi-election-websites-knocked-out-by-ddos-attack/
GIST	<p>Several Mississippi state websites were knocked offline during today’s midterm election in what was the most significant digital disruption of the day, though more could be on the way as ballots are counted.</p> <p>A distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack took down the Mississippi secretary of state’s office and officials there are “working on mitigations,” a senior Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) official told reporters during the organization’s third press briefing of the day.</p> <p>“We have been chatting with them for the last several hours working with some of the vendors to put the mitigations in place.”</p> <p>A pro-Russian hacking group took credit for the attack — which did not interfere with voting or counting processes — in a Telegram post.</p>

A second senior CISA official said the agency was “aware” of the claim by Russian hackers, but refrained from pinning the outage on a specific actor.

“While attribution is inherently difficult, we’ve not seen any evidence to suggest that these are part of a widespread coordinated campaign,” the first official said, adding CISA is tracking a “handful” of similar incidents.

“I suspect we’re going to see more of this activity,” the official speculated, noting CISA had no evidence of any DDoS attacks on election night result reporting websites.

The official also swatted down conspiratorial allegations that were made throughout the day by Republicans, including former President Donald Trump, about ballot scanner issues in Maricopa County, Arizona.

“To be very clear, we have no indication of malfeasance or malicious activity,” the official said. “They’ve been working on the issue. It is a technical issue and they have resolved it.”

Earlier in the day, the clerk’s office in Champaign County, Illinois, said its voter registration database was attacked.

However, the second senior CISA official said “we understand the technical issues with a vendor have now been resolved” with zero impact on the voting process.

The first official stressed that tonight’s vote counts will be unofficial and that it would take additional time to certify the election results.

The process “may take days to weeks, depending on state law, and that is completely normal.”

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HEADLINE	11/08 US reissues sanctions on Tornado Cash
SOURCE	https://therecord.media/us-reissues-sanctions-on-tornado-cash-tying-it-to-north-koreas-nuclear-weapons-program/
GIST	<p>The U.S. Treasury Department reissued sanctions on the Tornado Cash cryptocurrency mixer service, accusing the platform of helping North Korean government hackers launder more than \$455 million stolen in March 2022.</p> <p>State Department spokesman Ned Price said the mixer had provided “material support” to the Lazarus Group — a hacking collective U.S. law enforcement agencies believe works on behalf of the North Korean government.</p> <p>Price said the group’s hacks specifically support North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction program.</p> <p>“The use of Tornado Cash to launder stolen funds represents a larger trend by the DPRK regime to resort to illicit activities, including cyber-enabled heists from virtual currency exchanges and financial institutions, to generate revenue for its unlawful WMD and ballistic missile programs,” Price said. “The United States is committed to countering the regime’s attempts to raise funds through illicit activity and will continue to take actions against entities facilitating such activity.”</p> <p>North Korea launched a barrage of missiles last week and threatened to test nuclear missiles after the U.S. and South Korea militaries held training exercises. The missile launches were in violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.</p> <p>Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson said the sanctions targets two key nodes of the DPRK’s weapons programs: its increasing reliance on illicit activities,</p>

	<p>including cybercrime, to generate revenue, and its ability to procure and transport goods in support of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs.</p> <p>The U.S. also sanctioned two men – Sok Ri and Zhiyong Yan – for their role in violating sanctions by helping facilitate the sending of missile parts to North Korea.</p> <p>Tornado Cash was previously sanctioned in August for its role in helping North Korea launder stolen cryptocurrency from several hacks of decentralized finance platforms over the last year. A spokesperson for the company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.</p> <p>U.S. Treasury openly accused North Korea of being involved in the \$100 million hack of Harmony Bridge and in the theft of about \$7.8 million from a cryptocurrency platform called Nomad. Tornado Cash was used to launder funds in both cases.</p> <p>The U.S. has also previously accused North Korean hackers of being behind the headline-grabbing attack on Ronin Network, which saw almost \$600 million in cryptocurrency stolen.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Microsoft tackles zero-day exploits
SOURCE	https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2022/11/patches-for-6-zero-days-under-active-exploit-are-now-available-from-microsoft/
GIST	<p>It's the second Tuesday of the month, and that means it's Update Tuesday, the monthly release of security patches available for nearly all software Microsoft supports. This time around, the software maker has fixed six zero-days under active exploit in the wild, along with a wide range of other vulnerabilities that pose a threat to end users.</p> <p>Two of the zero-days are high-severity vulnerabilities in Exchange that, when used together, allow hackers to execute malicious code on servers. Tracked as CVE-2022-41040 and CVE-2022-41082, these vulnerabilities came to light in September. At the time, researchers in Vietnam reported they had been used to infect on-premises Exchange servers with web shells, the text-based interfaces that allow people to remotely execute commands.</p> <p>Better known as ProxyNotShell, the vulnerabilities affect on-premises Exchange servers. Shodan searches at the time the zero-days became publicly known showed roughly 220,000 servers were vulnerable. Microsoft said in early October that it was aware of only a single threat actor exploiting the vulnerabilities and that the actor had targeted fewer than 10 organizations. The threat actor is fluent in Simplified Chinese, suggesting it has a nexus to China.</p> <p>A third zero-day is CVE-2022-41128, a critical Windows vulnerability that also allows a threat actor to execute malicious code remotely. The vulnerability, which works when a vulnerable device accesses a malicious server, was discovered by Clément Lecigne of Google's Threat Analysis Group. Because TAG tracks hacking backed by nation-states, the discovery likely means that government-backed hackers are behind the zero-day exploits.</p> <p>Two more zero-days are escalation-of-privilege vulnerabilities, a class of vulnerability that, when paired with a separate vulnerability or used by someone who already has limited system privileges on a device, elevates system rights to those needed to install code, access passwords, and take control of a device. As security in applications and operating systems has improved in the past decade, so-called EoP vulnerabilities have grown in importance.</p> <p>CVE-2022-41073 affects the Microsoft print spooler, while CVE-2022-41125 resides in the Windows CNG Key Isolation Service. Both EoP vulnerabilities were discovered by the Microsoft Security Threat Intelligence team.</p>

The last zero-day fixed this month is also in Windows. CVE-2022-41091 allows hackers to create malicious files that evade Mark of the Web defenses, which are designed to work with security features such as Protected View in Microsoft Office. Will Dormann, a senior vulnerability analyst at security firm ANALYGENCE, [discovered the bypass technique](#) in July.

In all, this month's Update Tuesday fixed a total of 68 vulnerabilities. Microsoft gave a "critical" severity rating to 11 of them, with the remainder carrying the rating "important." Patches generally install automatically within about 24 hours. Those who want to install updates immediately can go to Windows > Settings > Updates and Security > Windows Update. Microsoft's full rundown is [here](#).

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HEADLINE	11/08 Black Basta, BlackByte targets
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/black-basta-blackbyte-attack-eu/
GIST	<p>Between the end of February and mid-July 2022, 81 victim organizations were listed on the BlackByte and Black Basta data leak sites.</p> <p>Of those, 41% were based in Europe, and many are part of critical infrastructure sectors, including energy, government, transportation, pharmaceuticals, facilities, food and education.</p> <p>The remaining 59% were primarily located in the US and included several victims, including a manufacturer of agricultural machinery, a small regional grocery chain and several construction firms.</p> <p>The new data comes from the threat response unit (TRU) at eSentire, which shared the findings with <i>Infosecurity</i> ahead of publication.</p> <p>“What stands out is that the US companies that were attacked by these two ransomware gangs during this time frame, for the most part, are not part of critical infrastructure sectors,” the report reads.</p> <p>“And yet, the European-based victim organizations are definitely in critical infrastructure segments including transportation, energy, government facilities, pharmaceuticals, food and education.”</p> <p>According to Keegan Keplinger, research and reporting lead at eSentire, organizations in Europe and other parts of the globe have attracted the interest of the Conti ransomware group, which only appeared to shut down in May 2022.</p> <p>“In typical ransomware branding fashion, Conti did not shut down; rather, they moved their operation into other ransomware brands, including Black Basta and BlackByte,” Keplinger told <i>Infosecurity</i>.</p> <p>“As pioneers of the ransomware intrusion model, the Conti ransomware group is known for their Russian-state affiliations, corporate organizational structure, and a tendency to target critical infrastructure in western, NATO-aligned countries, especially the US.”</p> <p>However, the security expert added that in the summer of 2021, US President Joe Biden began applying pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, threatening sanctions and retaliation.</p> <p>“To avoid lost ransomware payments, via sanctions and targeting by international law enforcement, Russian-based ransomware groups, especially Conti affiliates Black Basta and BlackByte, began rotating away from US targets towards other NATO-affiliated countries in Europe,” Keplinger added.</p> <p>According to the eSentire report, these included the Black Basta attacks on the wind turbine services company Deutsche Windtechnik in April and the Switzerland-based national food company The Groupe Laiteries Réunies in May. Also in May was an attack against Jacob Becker, a sizeable German waste disposal company, and in June, there were attacks against Danish railroad company Lokaltog A/S and Italy-based chemical manufacturer RadiciGroup.</p>

	<p>As for the BlackByte group, eSentire mentions attacks against Switzerland-based international transportation and logistics company M+R Spedag Group in April. It also describes hacking attempts against a major Italian wholesale food distributor, a pharmaceutical distributor out of Greece and a healthcare products manufacturer out of Columbia, among others.</p> <p>The latest eSentire report is now publicly available at this link and includes a list of recommendations to protect organizations from both Conti-affiliated hacking groups.</p> <p>Its publication comes days after security researchers at SentinelLabs linked the Black Basta gang with hacking operations conducted by the FIN7 threat actors.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Report: insider risks on the rise
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/12-of-employees-take-ip-when/
GIST	<p>Twelve percent of all employees take sensitive intellectual property (IP) with them when they leave an organization.</p> <p>The data comes from workforce cyber intelligence and security company Dtex, which published a report about top insider risk trends for 2022 earlier today.</p> <p>“Customer data, employee data, health records, sales contacts, and the list goes on,” reads the document. “More and more applications are providing new features that make data exfiltration easier. For example, many now provide the ability to maintain clipboard history and sync across multiple devices.”</p> <p>Case in point, the report also suggests a 55% increase in unsanctioned application usage, including those making data exfiltration easier by allowing users to maintain clipboard history and sync IP across multiple devices.</p> <p>“Bring Your Own Applications (BYOA) or Shadow IT can be a source of intelligence for business innovation,” Dtex wrote. “Still, they pose a major risk if the security team has not tested these tools thoroughly.”</p> <p>Further, the new data highlight a 20% increase in resignation letter research and creation from employees taking advantage of the tight labor market to switch positions for higher wages.</p> <p>“In most cases, an individual planning to leave the business is not pleased with the company’s product, co-workers, work environment, or compensation,” reads the report. “Disgruntled employees are usually jaded by a business that has not shown any steps to alleviate concerns, even after communication attempts.”</p> <p>Finally, the Dtex report says the industry has witnessed a 200% increase in unsanctioned third-party work on corporate devices from a high prevalence of employees engaged in side gigs.</p> <p>“We have found six unique identifiers to indicate remote workers are using computers for 3rd party work,” the report says.</p> <p>These ‘side gigs’ reportedly leverage corporate IP to assist third-party businesses that may be in direct competition with the employer, Dtex wrote.</p> <p>"One example we found was a social media marketer utilizing corporate-purchased Adobe Creative Cloud to provide services to a 3rd party business during expected corporate work hours."</p> <p>The full text of the Dtex report is available at this link here. Additional data highlighting the risks connected with insider threats can be found in research published at the end of September by Searchlight Security.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 LockBit affiliate uses Amadey Bot malware
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/lockbit-affiliate-uses-amadey-bot-malware-to-deploy-ransomware/
GIST	<p>A LockBit 3.0 ransomware affiliate is using phishing emails that install the Amadey Bot to take control of a device and encrypt devices.</p> <p>According to a new AhnLab report, the threat actor targets companies using phishing emails with lures pretending to be job application offers or copyright infringement notices.</p> <p>The LockBit 3.0 payload used in this attack is downloaded as an obfuscated PowerShell script or executable form, running on the host to encrypt files.</p> <p>Amadey Bot activity</p> <p>The Amadey Bot malware is an old strain capable of performing system reconnaissance, data exfiltration, and payload loading.</p> <p>Korean researchers at AhnLab have noticed increased Amadey Bot activity in 2022 and reported finding a new version of the malware in July, dropped via SmokeLoader.</p> <p>The latest version added antivirus detection and auto-avoidance capabilities, making intrusions and dropping payloads stealthier.</p> <p>In the July campaign, Amadey dropped various information-stealing malware, such as RedLine, but the more recent campaign loads a LockBit 3.0 payload instead.</p> <p>Infection chains</p> <p>AhnLab researchers noticed two distinct distribution chains, one relying on a VBA macro inside a Word document and one disguising the malicious executable as a Word file.</p> <p>In the first case, the user has to click on the "Enable Content" button to execute the macro, which creates an LNK file and stores it to "C:\Users\Public\skem.lnk". This file is a downloader for Amadey.</p> <p>The second case, seen in late October, uses email attachments with a file named "Resume.exe" (Amadey) that uses a Word document icon, tricking recipients into double-clicking.</p> <p>Both distribution paths lead to Amadey infections that use the same command and control (C2) address, so it's safe to assume the operator is the same.</p> <p>Amadey to LockBit 3.0</p> <p>At first launch, the malware copies itself to the TEMP directory and creates a scheduled task to establish persistence between system reboots.</p> <p>Next, Amadey connects to the C2, sends a host profiling report, and then waits for the reception of commands.</p> <p>The three possible commands from the C2 server order the download and execution of LockBit, in PowerShell form ('cc.ps1' or 'dd.ps1'), or exe form ('LBB.exe').</p> <p>The payloads are again dropped in TEMP as one of the following three:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • %TEMP%\1000018041\dd.ps1 • %TEMP%\1000019041\cc.ps1 • %TEMP%\1000020001\LBB.exe <p>From there, LockBit encrypts the user's files and generates ransom notes demanding payment, threatening to publish stolen files on the group's extortion site.</p>

In September 2022, AnhLab observed another two methods of LockBit 3.0 distribution, one [using DOTM documents](#) with malicious VBA macro and one dropping ZIP files containing the malware in [NSIS format](#).

Earlier, in June 2022, LockBit 2.0 was seen distributed via fake copyright infringement emails dropping [NSIS installers](#), so it all appears to be the evolution of the same campaign.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Retail sector preps for holiday cybercrimes
SOURCE	https://www.darkreading.com/risk/retail-sector-prepares-for-annual-holiday-cybercrime-onslaught
GIST	<p>For companies in the retail and hospitality sector, the holiday shopping season represents their busiest time of year, both for sales and fighting cybercrime threats.</p> <p>This year is no different, with companies in the sector anticipating that phishing, fraud, credential harvesting, and the ever-evolving malware landscape will cast a shadow over their security posture in the coming months, according to a report published by Retail & Hospitality Information Sharing and Analysis Center (RH-ISAC) this week.</p> <p>The 2022 RH-ISAC Holiday Season Threat Trends Summary report polled analysts and members of the industry group about what their security focus is this season — which is defined as the time between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, when people tend to do their online shopping for holidays that are celebrated in much of the world — as well as what they experienced in the previous 2020 and 2021 holiday seasons. RH-ISAC associate member Flashpoint also provided research and data for the report.</p> <p>While many threats plaguing the sector have remained consistent over the years, others are evolving rapidly as threat actors develop new malware and exploit fresh vulnerabilities, posing new issues and requiring both reinforcement and change in defense tactics with each season.</p> <p>Phishing and Credential Theft</p> <p>Retailers cited recurring threats as their biggest worries this year, with phishing — which the organizations noted is a year-round concern — a significant worry that remains consistent. In 2020, nearly 20% of retailers said phishing was the most frequently shared threat among their member exchange, Slack, and the core member listserv boards, while the number was 16% in 2021, according to the report.</p> <p>Indeed, the holiday season tends to bring a host of socially engineered promotional campaigns aimed at fooling account holders to harvest their credentials and perform other nefarious activities, organizations noted.</p> <p>Of more concern than phishing, however, is what is often a result of that threat activity: credential harvesting, which 42% and 37% say was the most-shared threat in 2020 and 2021, respectively. Retailers also worry about a rise by threat actors in the use of info-stealers that harvest customer data purchase don hacker forums, as well as customer account takeover that typically ramps up over the holidays.</p> <p>Other types of fraud involving gift cards and loyalty cards — with the former allowing threat actors to remain anonymous and thus difficult to track while shopping — will be a focus this year, as well as fraud related to returning items that were not purchased legitimately.</p> <p>Evolving Malware Landscape</p> <p>The report outlined year-over-year changes between 2020 and 2021 in retail threats linked to malware, bots, and vulnerabilities — results that demonstrate just how quickly this threat landscape in particular can evolve.</p> <p>Some of these threats, such as QakBot, Emotet, Agent Tesla, and Dridex — remain a constant worry. However, others — such as Log4Shell — emerge quickly and predictably, forcing organizations to pivot in terms of defense, researchers found.</p>

Bots in particular have risen in profile in terms of their impact on online retailers, especially over the past two years, as individuals who otherwise participate in no criminal activity began exploring ways to earn additional income as resellers of stolen information on threat actor forums, according to the report.

"These 'side hustles' support an already thriving ecosystem wherein actors have been scalping high-demand products to sell at high markups," according to the report. "The use of automation to support this activity causes significant negative side effects on the back end and can even lead to DDoS-like disruptions."

Year-over-year changes in malware and bot activity reflect how quickly this threat landscape in particular can change. For example, in 2020, the [Emotet banking Trojan](#) and its loader were the top malware threats shared by retailers — 15% and 8%, respectively — while the remote access trojan (RAT) AgentTesla earned 4% of overall mentions.

In 2021, however, AgentTesla rose to greater prominence, with 16% of mentions by retailers, while Emotet virtually disappeared from message boards, respondents said. Moreover, the now infamous [Log4j debacle](#) emerged as a threat, with 16% of mentions by retail and hospitality companies.

Retailers say they expect the most prevalent malware and bot activity this holiday season to come from QakBot, Emotet, Agent Tesla, and Dridex, according to the report.

Changes in threat activity so far this year include an increase in imposter websites, and emerging phishing attempts that are either product-focused or impersonated executives. The latter reflects a rise in socially engineered attacks that aimed to harvest credentials and bypass multifactor authentication, retailers say.

Retail and Hospitality Defenses

Because of the diversity of the threats the retail and hospitality sector expects to see during the holiday shopping season, the defense tactics they plan to adopt this year also are varied and must encompass both a macro and micro approach to understanding their enemies, they reported.

"Members reported focusing on understanding very specific tactics fraudsters and threat actors are using across kill chains to enhance detection and mitigation efforts," according to the report. "Understanding broad trends across the threat landscape and how they work within member environments has enabled analysts to create more effective alerting, detection, and mitigation efforts."

One tactic they are adopting is to work closely with their respective customer service departments, in part by providing customer service representatives with threat training. They also are maintaining brand protection services to help take down malicious imposter sites, as well as instituting internal fraud working groups to counter threats.

Staffing-wise, retailers and hospitality vendors cite consistency as key, with the need to ensure that those working directly to spot threats have the appropriate experience and knowledge to respond. The companies say they could implement change freezes, staffing adjustments, or other operational changes to prepare for the season, including an improvement in endpoint detection and red team operations to validate threat concerns and highlight areas for improvement, according to the report.

Among the tools and practices the companies find particularly helpful for shoring up security over the holidays: leading vendor threat intelligence platforms and cyber threat intelligence feeds; RH-ISAC community resources and sharing platforms; updated policies and plans; and partnerships with leading cybersecurity associations and nonprofit organizations for additional threat research context.

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SOURCE	https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/instagram-star-gets-11-years-for-cybercrimes-used-to-fund-his-lavish-lifestyle
GIST	<p>A Nigerian man has been sentenced to US federal prison for 11 years for committing various cybercrimes and using the proceeds to fund a luxurious lifestyle — one documented in detail on his popular Instagram account with the handle "Ray Hushpuppi."</p> <p>The Department of Justice said in a statement the man, whose government name is Ramon Olorunwa Abbas, stole money through an array of cybercrimes, including online bank robberies and business email compromise (BEC). Abbas was also found guilty of running a huge money-laundering operation. In just one 18-month period, Abbas admitted to laundering more than \$300 million, the DOJ noted.</p> <p>"Ramon Abbas, a.k.a. 'Hushpuppi,' targeted both American and international victims, becoming one of the most prolific money launderers in the world," Don Alway, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office said in the DOJ announcement. "Abbas leveraged his social media platforms — where he amassed a considerable following — to gain notoriety and to brag about the immense wealth he acquired by conducting business email compromise scams, online bank heists and other cyber-enabled fraud that financially ruined scores of victims and provided assistance to the North Korean regime."</p> <p>One notable ostentatious purchase that made frequent appearances on the now abandoned Hushpuppi Instagram account was a Richard Mille RM11-03 watch, which Abbas had paid \$230,000 for with funds he scammed from an unsuspecting business owner.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Largest crypto exchange rescues rival
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/08/technology/binance-ftx-deal-crypto.html
GIST	<p>The cryptocurrency world was rocked on Tuesday as one of the largest exchanges for digital currencies, seemingly on the verge of collapse, was bailed out by a major rival in a deal that underlined the perils of the industry's volatility.</p> <p>Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, said it had reached an agreement to buy its competitor FTX, which struggled to meet a surge of withdrawals in recent days as the crypto market teetered on the edge of another meltdown. The size of the acquisition couldn't immediately be determined, but the privately held FTX was once valued at \$32 billion.</p> <p>The emergency deal-making highlighted the persistent instability of the crypto industry, which was buffeted this spring by a \$2 trillion crash that drained the savings of many amateur investors. That downturn destabilized some of crypto's biggest firms, though FTX is by far the largest casualty. It was widely regarded as among the most nimble and best-run crypto companies, until its finances started unraveling virtually overnight.</p> <p>The sudden cataclysm prompted comparisons to the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the investment bank whose implosion helped set off the 2008 financial crisis.</p> <p>Many of the major crypto companies "are inherently fragile, susceptible to a Lehman-like collapse at any time," said Cory Klippsten, a Bitcoin entrepreneur who is critical of the rest of the crypto industry. "The only hope once under pressure is that another player will bail them out."</p> <p>If the deal goes through, it will unite two of the largest crypto companies and cement the status of Binance's founder, Changpeng Zhao, as one of the most powerful figures shaping the future of the loosely regulated crypto industry.</p> <p>The deal was announced as crypto markets, which have seen devastating losses this year, were on the brink of more panic. Reports had been circulating that FTX rested on shaky financial foundations. Many of its customers, who use FTX to buy and store their digital currencies, rushed to take their money out. On</p>

Monday night, the crypto research firm Nansen [reported](#) that more than half a billion dollars had flowed off the platform over the previous 24 hours.

At one point on Tuesday, FTX stopped processing withdrawals altogether, according to [the Block](#), a crypto research firm. The exchange appeared to have entered a “liquidity crunch,” meaning it lacked the funds to fulfill demand for withdrawals.

“This afternoon, FTX asked for our help,” Mr. Zhao [said](#) on Twitter on Tuesday, describing how Binance had struck the deal to buy FTX. He said Binance was planning to “fully acquire FTX.com” to help relieve the pressure on the exchange, but added that the agreement was “nonbinding.”

In an internal note to FTX employees, [Sam Bankman-Fried](#), the exchange’s chief executive, apologized for not being communicative recently and said the company had experienced roughly \$6 billion of net withdrawals over the previous 72 hours, compared with tens of millions of dollars in inflows and outflows on a typical day.

In the note, which was obtained by The New York Times, Mr. Bankman-Fried added that he had made mistakes. “I’m sorry,” he wrote, noting that most of the details of the transaction with Binance “still aren’t hashed out.”

On Twitter, Mr. Bankman-Fried said he was grateful to Mr. Zhao for making a deal, which he said would allow FTX to “clear out liquidity crunches.” FTX is based in the Bahamas, where it offers trading services that aren’t authorized in the United States. The company also has a smaller, U.S.-based operation; in his tweets, Mr. Bankman-Fried said FTX.US was meeting withdrawals and wouldn’t be part of the deal with Binance.

An FTX spokesman said the company had no comment beyond the Twitter posts. A Binance spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment.

The deal was a humbling reversal for Mr. Bankman-Fried, 30, who had emerged over the last two years as one of the crypto industry’s most powerful figures. He started a lobbying push to shape crypto regulation in Washington and bought the naming rights to the Miami Heat’s arena as part of an aggressive marketing campaign. He has also been a major political donor, contributing \$5.6 million to support Joseph R. Biden’s 2020 election effort.

When the crypto market crashed in May, Mr. Bankman-Fried engineered deals to backstop struggling companies. He launched a bid to [acquire Voyager Digital](#), a publicly traded crypto lender that filed for bankruptcy in July.

But cracks started emerging last week when the crypto publication CoinDesk [reported](#) on a leaked balance sheet that appeared to show that FTX’s sister company, Alameda Research, was on shaky foundations. Alameda is a hedge fund that Mr. Bankman-Fried founded before starting FTX. The two companies have close financial ties.

The report showed that a large portion of Alameda’s assets were a cryptocurrency called FTT, which FTX invented for traders to use on its platform. The disclosure stoked fears that a sudden drop in the price of FTT could cause a crisis for Alameda and FTX.

Mr. Zhao was an early investor in FTX, which gave him a stake in the company. Mr. Bankman-Fried later bought that stake back, paying for it partly in FTT. Over the weekend, Mr. Zhao [announced](#) that Binance would sell its FTT holdings, citing “recent revelations.”

The announcement set off a public spat between Mr. Zhao and Mr. Bankman-Fried. “A competitor is going after us with false rumors,” Mr. Bankman-Fried said on Twitter on Monday. “FTX is fine. Assets are fine.”

But Binance's moves also sent the price of FTT spiraling. By Tuesday, it had dropped about 63 percent over 24 hours. The rest of the crypto market took a hit, with the prices of Bitcoin and Ether also falling.

Traders rushed to move their cryptocurrencies off FTX's platform, as fears grew that the company could be the next in a series of high-profile crypto firms to collapse. More than \$1.2 billion was withdrawn from FTX on Monday, Nansen [reported](#) that night.

"There's a confidence crisis here," said Ed Moya, a crypto analyst at OANDA, a trading firm. "Whenever you have the instability of a key token or coin that is tied to one of the key crypto figures, there's always concern that you could see contagion, and a much more significant moment of crisis."

Apart from Mr. Zhao, FTX was backed by a raft of other major investors, including Sequoia Capital, Lightspeed Venture Partners and SoftBank. FTX had raised nearly \$2 billion in funding, according to PitchBook, which tracks private capital. Three investors in FTX described being shellshocked by the Binance takeover and what it portended for cryptocurrency start-ups.

Mr. Bankman-Fried emailed investors at 11 a.m. Pacific time to share news of the deal, according to a copy of the letter obtained by The Times. In it, he wrote that FTX's shareholders were the company's "second priority" and that he was more focused on the first priority of protecting customers and "the industry."

"I'm sorry I didn't do better," he concluded. The letter was reported earlier by the newsletter Newcomer.

The deal strengthens the hand of Binance, which operates largely outside the United States but without a central headquarters. Binance built its business by offering a wide array of cryptocurrencies on its platform, as well as risky trading options that aren't legal in the United States. Mr. Zhao has long been ranked as the world's richest crypto billionaire, with a net worth of \$17.4 billion, according to Forbes.

But Binance, which also runs a smaller U.S. operation, has faced regulatory scrutiny from the Securities and Exchange Commission, and many details of its business are cloaked in secrecy. While its exact valuation is not precisely known, Binance processes as much as \$76 billion a day in crypto trades, according to CoinMarketCap, the industry data tracker.

A few days ago, Mr. Bankman-Fried posted a since-deleted tweet joking that Mr. Zhao might not be allowed to visit Washington, an apparent allusion to the regulatory scrutiny. Now Mr. Zhao is poised to take over his company.

In his note to FTX staff on Tuesday, Mr. Bankman-Fried promised more information about the deal soon. "Let's live to fight another day," he said.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Hacker publishes Medibank client data
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hacker-publishes-australian-health-insurers-customer-data-92927100
GIST	<p>CANBERRA, Australia -- Medibank client data was published by an extortionist Wednesday, including details of individuals' medical procedures, after Australia's largest health insurer refused to pay a ransom for the personal records of almost 10 million current and former customers.</p> <p>The release of information on the dark web appeared to be a sample of the data that Medibank had previously determined had been stolen last month, a company said. Medibank expected the thief would continue releasing data.</p> <p>"This is a criminal act designed to harm our customers and cause distress," Medibank CEO David Koczkar said in a statement that reiterated a previous apology to customers.</p>

“We take seriously our responsibility to safeguard our customers and we stand ready to support them,” he added.

Cybersecurity Minister Clare O’Neil, who is a Medibank customer and has had personal data stolen, urged social and traditional media companies to prevent their platforms from being used to share people’s stolen medical histories.

“If you do so, you will be aiding and abetting the scumbags who are at the heart of these criminal acts and I know that you would not do that to your own country and your own citizens,” O’Neil told Parliament.

She said the number of people whose medical information had been compromised was “small at this stage.”

“But I want the Australian people to understand that that is likely to change and we are going through a difficult period now that may last for weeks, possibly months, not days and hours,” O’Neil added.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who is also a Medibank customer, welcomed the company’s refusal to pay the hacker to have the records returned.

“This is really tough for people. I’m a Medibank Private customer as well and it will be of concern that some of this information has been put out there,” Albanese told reporters, referring to a Medibank brand.

“The company has followed the guidelines effectively, the advice, which is to not engage in a ransom payment. If you go down this road, then you end up with more difficulties potentially across a wider range,” Albanese added.

The thieves had reportedly threatened to expose the diagnoses and treatments of high-profile customers unless a ransom of an undisclosed amount was paid, but Medibank decided there was “only a limited chance” that a ransom would prevent the data being published.

A blogger using the name “Extortion Gang” posted Monday night on the dark web that “data will be publish (sic) in 24 hours.”

Medibank this week updated its estimate of the number of people whose personal information was stolen from 4 million two weeks ago to 9.7 million. The stolen data included health claims of almost 500,000 people including diagnoses and treatments, the company said.

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Terrorism, Extremism

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HEADLINE	11/08 Philippines: extremist members surrender
SOURCE	https://www.ucanews.com/news/abu-sayyaf-militants-surrender-to-philippine-military/99362
GIST	<p>More than 150 members of a Muslim extremist group surrendered to Philippine military authorities in the Mindanao region on Nov. 8.</p> <p>Members of the Abu Sayyaf group, officially known as the Islamic State-East Asia Province, surrendered at a military camp in Jolo, Sulu province, turning over their firearms and ammunition.</p> <p>Military officials said the surrender was the outcome of their repeated and uninterrupted offense against the rebels.</p> <p>“We have engaged in offensive attacks as we are pursuing them for the crimes they had committed in the past. Several of their high-ranking officials have arrest warrants and we are implementing the law to bring</p>

them to justice,” Maj. Gen. Ignatius Patrimonio, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu, told reporters on Nov. 8.

The rebels had cited “fatigue” as their reason for surrendering, saying they had been fighting government forces without food and water, as well as a lack of ammunition.

“I would say many of them had come to their senses like they are already missing a comfortable life down the mountains. They do not even have potable water or decent food. So rather than risk being killed, they had surrendered to live,” Patrimonio added.

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. lauded the military for the “effectivity” of their campaign against the terrorist group.

“I would like to congratulate our armed forces for a job well done. The true measure of our offensive attack is not in the number of rebels neutralized but the number of those who surrendered – a manifestation that there is a change in their principles and ideology,” Marcos, Jr. told reporters on Nov. 9.

Philippine Muslim scholar Gandula Maitem, however, said the Mindanao conflict is far from over, especially if people in the region remain poor.

“Poverty feeds terrorism. Poverty fuels terrorism. They are attracted to join terrorist groups because of a lack of education. They lack education because many, if not most of them, did not step into schools due to extreme poverty. So, they had a very different outlook in life,” Maitem told UCA News.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said the rebels would undergo a rehabilitation program while serving time in prison.

“They were members of the terrorist group. Thus, they need to undergo a government rehabilitation program before they could be reintegrated into society,” DSWD secretary Erwin Tulfo told reporters on Nov. 8.

Tulfo said part of the rehab program was to require them to attend religious Islamic classes to teach them the importance of peace.

“We have Muslim imams who will explain to them that religion should not be weaponized to spread fear much more to hurt the innocent. This was not the teaching of Allah. Islam is for peace,” Tulfo added.

Since January, more than 174 Abu Sayyaf members have surrendered to government forces in various military detachments in Sulu province due to a continuous military offensive ordered by former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte, after passing the controversial Anti-Terrorism Law, labeled the group “terrorists” while granting himself the power to order military forces to bomb purported camps in the mountains of Sulu province.

Abu Sayyaf has been described as “rooted in a distinct class made up of closely-knit networks built through the marriage of important families through socioeconomic backgrounds and family structures,” according to Islamist expert and English anthropologist Michael Buehler.

The group has carried out numerous bombings, kidnappings, assassinations and extortion activities in the Philippines including the abduction and beheading of several American Protestant missionaries in 2000 and 2001.

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HEADLINE	11/08 What is ‘stochastic terrorism’?
SOURCE	https://www.businessinsider.com/stochastic-terrorism-meaning-definition-form-of-extremist-political-violence-2022-11

- Acts of stochastic terrorism appear to be on the rise, according to extremism experts.
- Stochastic terrorism is a type of extremist violence that is borne of increasing polarization.
- "We know that an attack will take place at some point," an expert said. "We don't know where or when."

The violent attack against House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband last month [marked a noted escalation of brewing political violence in the US](#), with the suspect telling authorities that [he broke into the lawmaker's home with zip ties](#) as [a warning to other Democrats](#).

Authorities believe the alleged assailant worked alone to execute his plan — but he offered familiar rhetoric as the reason for the attack, according to police, parroting [conspiracy theories and lies that have been embraced by the far-right](#).

The "lone-wolf" nature of the assault in conjunction with the suspect's stated motivation suggests the incident could be an example of stochastic terrorism, according to extremism experts.

Stochastic terrorism is a specific type of extremist violence that occurs when an environment has "othered" a population or individual to a significant enough extent that results in subsequent violence against them, [Eric K. Ward](#), senior advisor to the Western States Center, told Insider.

Ward cited the [uptick in hate crimes against Middle Eastern Americans](#) immediately following the September 11 attacks as a prime example of stochastic terrorism in practice. [The 2011 shooting of former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords](#) is another instance of the phenomenon, according to [Ramon Spaaij](#), a sociology professor who specializes in the study of violent extremism and terrorism.

No legitimate organization or public figure explicitly enabled the 22-year-old shooter to attack Giffords, nor did any politician directly encourage people to enact violence against Middle Easterners following 9/11, Spaaij explained, but an environment of extremism and polarization paved the way for their actions.

"These are individual attacks, but actually there are patterns in the sense that if you create a polarized-enough environment with hate speech and conspiracy theories that pits particular groups against each other, that really starts undermining the legitimacy of democratic institutions and people's trust," Spaaij told Insider.

The ongoing delegitimization of such institutions — as well as the people who operate within those institutions — creates an environment that then lowers the threshold for and legitimizes violence as a result, according to Spaaij, who wrote about stochastic terrorism in his 2017 book "[The Age of Lone Wolf Terrorism](#)."

Extremism experts say political violence has gone mainstream

Stochastic terrorism is a term that primarily pops up in modern conversations of extremism, particularly in the context of "lone wolf violence," experts said. But the concept has its roots in the anarchism of the late 19th century, in which much of the resistance, propaganda, and extremism of the time was leaderless and decentralized, according to Spaaij.

While stochastic terrorism is not a new phenomenon, its stark prevalence in global society at the moment is a more recent development, he added.

"It's quite mainstream," Spaaij said, of stochastic terrorism. Access to inciting ideas is no longer available only in obscure, radical pamphlets and materials. "It's actually right out there and [it really infiltrates mainstream political discourse](#)," he added.

There's no one factor fully responsible for stoking stochastic terrorism. It can happen through a combination of mainstream media, polarizing political discourse, and [more and more frequently via social media](#), Spaaij said.

"We're seeing that now [play out on Twitter](#) for example," he said. "Where's the line between misinformation and hate speech?"

"Particular platforms reinforce and reify these beliefs and that's all [people] hear," he added. "So it's a funneling. There is no room anymore for different perspectives that might challenge that."

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez invoked the term in a [Tuesday interview](#) ahead of the midterm elections, saying she routinely receives a wave of death threats anytime she is mentioned by Tucker Carlson on Fox News.

"This is what stochastic terrorism is," she said. "When you use a very large platform to turn up the temperature and target an individual until something happens."

Sub-groups prone to stochastic terrorism have a strong sense of moral righteousness and have often created a strict binary between good and evil for themselves, casting their enemies as villains, Spaaij said. "It's a lot easier to harm someone when they've been dehumanized," he added.

The suspect in the Pelosi attack last month told authorities that he saw the lawmaker as the "leader of the pack" among Democrats and planned to break her kneecaps if she "lied" so she would have to be wheeled into Congress as [a message to other lawmakers that "there were consequences to actions."](#)

It's a chilling example of how the baseless conspiracy theories about the top woman in Congress have not only [wormed their way into the mainstream GOP](#), but have become so prevalent and pernicious to inspire individuals to act on them.

Stochastic terrorism appears to be on the rise globally

The unpredictability and decentralized nature of stochastic terrorism make combatting the violence particularly difficult, especially when it comes to accountability.

The individual perpetrator of a violent attack can obviously be held to account. But trying to point the finger at the politician or public figure that fueled the flames that ultimately inspired said individual to act is much more challenging.

"It's very easy to deny any accountability around that," Spaaij said. "It's more indirect, not causal."

But without any accountability, a vicious cycle materializes and these environments of hate are able to flourish, ensuring further displays of violence, experts said. Acts of stochastic terrorism appear to be on the rise around the world, according to Spaaij and Ward, who cited [anti-immigration waves](#) in several [European countries](#) and increasing attacks and [threats against US politicians](#) as evidence.

The legitimization of dangerous rhetoric makes consequences certain.

"We know that an attack will inevitably take place at some point in time," Spaaij said. But what makes the violence stochastic, he added, is "we don't know where or when."

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HEADLINE	11/09 Secret underground schools Afghan girls
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/02/afghanistan-girls-school-education-taliban/
GIST	<p>KABUL — On a quiet residential street, teenage girls with school bags swiftly entered a large green gate. They were dressed in traditional garb, their faces covered, and many were holding copies of the Quran, Islam's holy book. It was for their own protection.</p> <p>The house is a secret school for Afghan girls who are barred by the Taliban from getting an education. If agents raid the house, the girls will pull out their Qurans and pretend they are in a madrassa, or Islamic school, which the country's new rulers still allow girls to attend.</p>

“The Taliban are floating around in this area,” said Marina, 16, a 10th-grader. “So, I always carry a Quran in the open. My other books are hidden in my bag.”

More than a year after seizing power in Afghanistan, the Taliban still refuses to allow girls to attend secondary school, from grades seven to 12. The ban, as well as other [hard-line edicts](#) restricting women’s lives, have triggered global outrage and widespread protests by Afghan women.

But a more subtle form of defiance is also happening. Underground schools for girls have formed in the capital and other Afghan cities, hidden away in houses and apartments, despite the immense threat to students and teachers. For the girls and their families, it is worth the risk.

“It doesn’t matter if the Taliban becomes aware of this school,” said Angila, also 16 and in the 10th grade. “Education is my basic right. No one can take that away.”

Washington Post journalists made several visits last month to a secret school in Kabul where 25 girls were taught in various subjects for roughly two hours a day. Classes were kept short to lessen the chances of discovery by the Taliban. The girls and their teacher spoke on the condition that they be identified only by their first names, fearing retaliation from the authorities.

The Taliban has said repeatedly that secondary schools for girls will reopen when there is an appropriate “Islamic environment.” But the group has provided no criteria for what constitutes such an environment.

When the Taliban first seized power in 1996, it closed schools for all girls — then too, underground schools were formed to fill the void — banned women from working and forced them to wear head-to-toe coverings known as burqas whenever they ventured outside the home.

The group has been less draconian this time around, and the issue of education has revealed divisions among the Taliban’s leaders and religious scholars. In some areas, local Taliban officials have allowed girls above sixth grade to attend school, bowing to pressure from community leaders.

Last month, the Taliban’s deputy foreign minister, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, made a rare public appeal urging that all secondary schools for girls be reopened, adding that “the delay is increasing the gap between [the government] and the nation.”

“Education is obligatory on both men and women, without any discrimination,” Stanikzai said in a televised speech. “No one can offer a justification based on sharia [Islamic law] for opposing this.”

But the hard-line conservative leaders who form the backbone of the movement remain opposed. And the Taliban has issued other restrictions, including mandating that women wear a face veil. Last month, a conservative cleric loyal to the hard-liners was appointed as the education minister.

Western governments have made clear that improvements in women’s rights are essential for the Taliban to gain access to \$7 billion of foreign reserves frozen by the international community.

Abdulhaq Hammad, a top Taliban official in the Ministry of Information and Culture, insisted that “ninety percent of Taliban members are against the closure of the schools.” But convincing the remaining 10 percent is a delicate process.

“The Taliban don’t want to create any fragmentation amongst themselves; they don’t want to be broken from within,” Hammad said. “There are struggles with the 10 percent. But their unity is the secret of their success against the American invasion. If it’s broken, it will be very difficult to repair.”

Five months ago, a woman named Ayesha launched a collective of 45 underground schools around the capital. She was motivated in part by her bad marriage, she said: “Women should not be dependent on men. Education is the only way out of our difficulties.”

But within a month, her funds dwindled. Many of the schools closed. Others were shut down out of fear. Only 10 are active today, and Ayesha is struggling to find donors to support them. The girls in her schools come from the poorest families; with the Afghan economy collapsing, most can't pay tuition or even buy textbooks.

Worse, she fears the Taliban will come for her. The group's intelligence agency has summoned her three times, she said, forcing her into hiding.

"I don't want to shut down these schools," she said, looking determined. "They will continue."

'This is your right'

On a recent day, Ayesha took two Post journalists to one of her underground schools in Kabul.

Past the green gate was a compound with potted plants and flowers. There were rows of slippers at the entrance to the classroom, which was about the size of a one-car garage. Inside, the girls sat on the pink-carpeted floor in front of a small whiteboard. Next to it stood their teacher, Masouda. At 22, she was not much older than some of her students.

The ivory-colored frill curtains were drawn closed.

The students nervously stared at the Post journalists.

"Girls, you shouldn't be afraid," Ayesha assured them. "This is your right, and no one can take it from you."

The girls recited a few verses from the Quran. Then class got underway.

"Today's lesson is on pages 37, 38 and 39," Masouda said, opening a biology textbook. "It's about the types of plants and vegetables."

She looked around. Only a few girls had the textbook.

"If someone doesn't have a book, please take notes," Masouda said, as she wrote on the whiteboard.

"Who would like to come up and explain this?"

Angila raised her hand. She stood and recited the lesson in a clear, authoritative voice.

Biology was her favorite subject, she explained after the class was over.

"I want to be a physician," said Angila, who wore a head-to-toe black gown and a lime-green headscarf. "This is my dream. From childhood, I wanted to become a doctor."

She was well on her way, part of a generation of girls and women that started attending school during the American occupation. When the Taliban regained power and ordered teenage girls to stay home, Angila was devastated.

"I watched the boys go to school, but I couldn't," she recalled. "My heart was broken."

More than 45 percent of Afghans girls are not attending school, compared with 20 percent of boys, according to a recent report by Save The Children. The report also says 26 percent of girls are exhibiting signs of depression, compared with 16 percent of boys.

Masouda understands the psychological toll. After graduating from high school, she studied at a junior college. She was preparing for university entrance exams when the Taliban captured Kabul.

As the economy fell apart, her father and older brother lost their jobs. They agreed to host the school inside their home as a way to earn some money, and Masouda volunteered to teach.

“The school closures had a big impact on me, just like for the other students,” Masouda said. “It’s created mental problems for some students. To bring a sense of humanity, we share our knowledge.”

As Ayesha left the class, she reminded the girls to wear their hijabs, or headscarves, so the Taliban “will not make the hijab an excuse to stop you. If someone stops you, tell him you are going to attend class of holy Quran,” she told them.

‘They have spies’

Masouda’s younger brother has been given clear instructions not to open the green gate if anyone knocks, unless he recognizes the person on the other side.

“The Taliban are a bit far away from here, but they have spies,” said Masouda.

Three months ago, she stopped classes for 25 days after the Taliban arrested a teacher working in another underground school. If Taliban agents enter Masouda’s school, the girls know to open the cupboard and grab the Qurans.

Then, Masouda will ask Marina, who has memorized the Quran, to come forward.

“If they come, she will take over the class, and I will pretend to be a student,” Masouda said.

Marina, dressed in a traditional purple gown and a black headscarf, said that she’s attending the class “to gain courage.”

She wants to become a pilot for Kam Air, an Afghan carrier, because “there’s very little representation of women in the aviation sector.”

She raised her hand eagerly and answered a geography question, about the country’s longest river.

The next day, class began with chemistry and quickly moved to history. Most of the girls knew their country’s history, especially how women were treated.

Their mothers grew up under the first Taliban government and were never educated.

“My mother doesn’t want me to be illiterate, like her,” said Manizha, 18, a 12th-grader, who dreams of being a television journalist.

The last subject of the day was English. And it gave Masouda a chance to learn from her students. She asked Marwa to come to the front of the class.

“I like red color. What color do you like?” asked Marwa, 17, who says she wants to become a heart surgeon.

“Green,” Masouda said.

“What do you want to become in the future?” Marwa asked.

“A teacher,” Masouda said.

A few minutes later, class was over. The girls quickly filed out through the green gate.

Masouda erased the evidence from the whiteboard.

Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	11/08 Most-visited glaciers soon be gone?
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/07/travel/glaciers-melting-unesco.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=Travel
GIST	<p>Making the World Heritage List from UNESCO, the United Nations' educational, scientific and cultural organization, is a kind of gold seal of approval in the tourism world. The list, which began in 1978, has more than 1,150 sites nominated by their host nations and includes tourist destinations like the Great Wall of China, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Central Amazon Conservation Complex in Brazil.</p> <p>It also features some of the world's most-famous and most-visited glaciers, including those in Yosemite National Park. But according to a report released by the agency last week, a third of them are expected to disappear by 2050 because of climate change.</p> <p>The glaciers that are likely to disappear include the last remaining ones in Africa, in Kilimanjaro National Park and on Mount Kenya, those on the Pyrenees' Mont Perdu, which spans the borders of France and Spain, and in Italy's Dolomites.</p> <p>The report, released days before the U.N.'s COP27 climate change conference is set to begin in Egypt, posed a challenge to the travel industry, which is a large contributor to global carbon emissions, with a footprint estimated between 8 and 11 percent of total greenhouse gases, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council, or W.T.T.C. Aviation represents around 17 percent of total travel carbon emissions.</p> <p>The report was a stark reminder of the critical role the travel industry plays in preserving sensitive sites and reducing carbon emissions, said James Thornton, the chief executive of Intrepid Travel, a travel company that specializes in sustainable travel and that organizes journeys to many of the glaciers named in the report.</p> <p>"It's very much a wake up call," he said. "The key message is that ultimately for the travel industry there is no vaccine for climate change. We must take urgent action to rapidly decarbonize."</p> <p>Fifty of UNESCO's World Heritage sites are home to glaciers, and 18,600 glaciers have been identified at those sites. One third of the glaciers in these sites are "condemned to disappear by 2050," according to the report.</p> <p>"These are projections," said Tales Carvalho Resende, a UNESCO researcher from Brazil and one of the authors of the report. "We hope we are wrong, of course, but these are projections based on hard science."</p> <p>The glaciers will disappear regardless of any "climate scenarios," he said. But the remaining two-thirds of the glaciers in the World Heritage sites could still be saved if global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the report.</p> <p>The glaciers on the list are losing 58 billion tons of ice a year, an amount equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain, according to UNESCO. The melting is responsible for nearly 5 percent of observed global sea-level rise, according to the study.</p> <p>Enormous declines in the price of renewables and a global political mobilization have led scientists to conclude that warming this century will most likely fall between two or three degrees, far below the catastrophic projections of four to six degrees that were once made. But limiting global warming to 1.5</p>

degrees is highly unlikely and even one or two more degrees of warming will lead to more extreme weather, environmental disruption and suffering for millions of humans.

Still, Mr. Resende said, the UNESCO report shows that the travel industry can play an enormous role in preserving World Heritage sites and helping change traveler behavior.

He pointed to [a 2019 ban forbidding tourists from climbing Uluru](#), a giant monolith in Australia that is sacred to the Anangu, an Aboriginal group that is the custodian of the rock. The ban, which came after decades of campaigning by the Anangu people, [has largely been respected by tourists](#) and has given park rangers time to maintain the flora and fauna at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, a World Heritage site.

Mr. Resende described it as an example of how education and collaboration with local communities can compel tourists to change their travel habits and learn how to better protect sensitive destinations — lessons that can perhaps be applied to curbing emission-producing behaviors.

Travel companies like Expedia and Kayak can also encourage people to travel less frequently by advertising more weeklong trips instead of three-day or weekend excursions, he said. A traveler who flies once a year for a longer vacation would in theory have a smaller carbon footprint than a traveler who takes multiple, shorter trips on planes, Mr. Resende said.

At the last COP conference, held in Glasgow, Scotland, last year, more than 300 members of the trillion-dollar global tourism industry, including tourism operators, heads of hotel chains and leaders of tourism boards, [came together](#) to sign the [Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism](#). Since then, [more than 530 stakeholders](#) have signed the pledge.

The deal required them to submit a concrete and transparent plan within 12 months to cut carbon emissions in half by 2030 and reach “net zero” by 2050.

Travel companies have a “special obligation” to confront the industry’s carbon footprint, said Jeff Roy, the executive vice president of [Collette Tours](#), a travel company that organizes trips to World Heritage sites.

“The good news is that the travel industry has banded together to share resources and work collaboratively to transform tourism in relation to climate action in a way that we have never seen before,” he said in a statement. “There is far more to be done and quickly, as the pace of climate change is accelerating.”

Intrepid, for example, has started busing tourists between some destinations instead of flying, a change from past practices, Mr. Thornton said.

The release of the report sparked concerns that tourists would flock to the glaciers and see them before they disappear, worsening overcrowded conditions at national parks and other delicate natural areas.

“All national parks suffer from too many visitors and they’ve had to do drastic things over the last 10 years to deal with this issue,” said Fred Bianchi, the director of [Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s Glacier National Park](#) project center in Montana. The park was not mentioned in the UNESCO report, but scientists fear [the park could be glacier free by 2030](#).

The pandemic led many parks to put in a reservation system to avoid heavy foot traffic. The UNESCO report provides another incentive for keeping that type of system in place, Mr. Bianchi said.

But more tourists should see the damage caused by man-made climate change, said Luther Likes, a booking agent at [Gray Line Travel](#), which organizes trips to Yosemite National Park, where the two glaciers, [Lyell](#) and [Maclure](#), have been retreating for decades.

	"It's something to see it in pictures but to see it in person has a different impact," Mr. Likes said. "It's terrifying, honestly."
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HEADLINE	11/08 All-terrain wheelchairs arrive at parks
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2022/11/08/parks-trails-all-terrain-wheelchairs/
GIST	<p>Cory Lee has visited 40 countries on seven continents, and yet the Georgia native has never explored Cloudland Canyon State Park, about 20 minutes from his home. His wheelchair was tough enough for the trip to Antarctica but not for the rugged terrain in his backyard.</p> <p>Lee's circumstances changed Friday, when Georgia's Department of Natural Resources and the Aimee Copeland Foundation unveiled a fleet of all-terrain power wheelchairs for rent at 11 state parks and outdoorsy destinations, including Cloudland Canyon. The Action Trackchair models are equipped with tank-like tracks capable of traversing rocks, roots, streams and sand; clearing fallen trees; plowing through tall grass and tackling uphill climbs.</p> <p>"I'll finally be able to go on these trails for the first time in my life," said the 32-year-old travel blogger, who shares his adventures on Curb Free with Cory Lee. "The trails are off-limits in my regular wheelchair."</p> <p>Georgia is one of the latest states to provide the Land Rover of wheelchairs to outdoor enthusiasts with mobility issues.</p> <p>In 2017, Colorado Parks and Wildlife launched its Staunton State Park Track-Chair Program, which provides free adaptive equipment, though guests must pay the \$10 entrance fee. Michigan's Department of Natural Resources has placed off-road track chairs in nearly a dozen parks, including Muskegon State Park. In 2018, Lee reserved a chair at the park that boasts three miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan and Muskegon Lake. "It allowed me to have so much independence on the sand," he said.</p> <p>In 2019, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan became the first national park to offer a track chair, superintendent Scott Tucker said. This year, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, the nonprofit that oversees the program, added a third.</p> <p>South Dakota is also expanding its squadron: On Tuesday, the South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation unveils its second all-terrain chair. South Dakota resident Michael M. Samp is leading a fundraising campaign to purchase up to 30 chairs. Last year, Samp's father packed up his fishing pole and piloted a track chair to Center Lake in Custer State Park. He reeled in trout, just as he had before he was diagnosed with spinal cerebral ataxia.</p> <p>"The plan is to have the chairs spread throughout the state and available for various outdoor activities including, but not limited to, park and trail enjoyment, hunting and fishing," said Kristina Coby, the foundation's director.</p> <p>This month, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will wrap up its months-long pilot program that tested out the chairs in five parks. On Nov. 16, the agency will evaluate the success of the amenity. Early indications are positive.</p> <p>"We want to create an unforgettable outdoor experience for everyone, not just for people who can walk," said Jamie McBride, a state parks and recreation area program consultant with the Parks and Trails Division of the Minnesota DNR. "People have told us this is life-changing."</p> <p>The Georgia initiative was spearheaded by Aimee Copeland Mercier, who suffered a zip-lining accident in 2012 and lost both hands, her right foot and her left leg to a flesh-eating bacterial infection. Copeland Mercier, a psychotherapist and licensed clinical social worker, tested several types of all-terrain chairs before committing to Action Trackchair, which several other state programs also use.</p>

The Minnesota-based company was founded by Tim and Donna Swenson, whose son Jeff was paralyzed in a car accident. The original design resembled a Frankenstein of sporting goods parts, with snow bike tracks and a busted boat seat. Today's model could be an opening act at a monster truck rally.

"I was floored by what it could do," said Copeland Mercier, whose foundation raised \$200,000 to purchase the chairs at \$12,500 each. "Oh my gosh! I can go over a whole tree trunk, up a steep incline and through snow, swamps and wetlands. If I took my regular wheelchair, I'd get stuck in five minutes."

Each program has its own reservations system and requirements. For Georgia's service, visitors must provide proof of their disability and a photo ID, plus complete an online training course available through All Terrain Georgia. Once certified, the organization will forward the rental request to the park. Copeland Mercier urges visitors to plan ahead: The certification course takes about an hour, the foundation needs 72-hour advance notice and the park requires a 48-hour heads-up.

"These are 500-pound chairs," she said. "There are some risks involved."

The Minnesota DNR, which owns and maintains its five chairs, advises visitors to call the park to reserve a chair.

"We have a few screening questions," McBride said, "but we leave the eligibility up to the user."

Since launching the program in June, McBride said the chairs are booked three to four days a week, with heavier interest on weekends. "We haven't turned too many people away at this point," he said.

Track chairs can conquer a range of obstacles, but they do not work in all environments.

"You need the width. If two trees are too close together, the wheelchair can't pass between them," Copeland Mercier said. "And some inclines are too steep. The chair also can't go down staircases."

To steer visitors in the right direction, parks have created maps highlighting the trails designated for the track chairs, such as Staunton State Park's trio of routes that range from roughly three to four miles. The visitors center staff are also ready with recommendations. (To transfer from chair to chair, visitors will need a companion to assist.)

McBride said one goal is to erect markers that would provide detailed information about the hike, such the extent of accessibility. "We want to let people know if they can get all the way to the waterfall or halfway," he said, using a hypothetical example.

Copeland Mercier also has a wish list. She hopes to expand the network of chairs to other parts of Georgia, such as the coastal, southern and central regions. Once the foundation acquires several vans (another aspiration), the staff could move the 30 to 40 chairs (ditto) around the state to fill fluctuating demand. She is also eyeing other states.

"North Carolina is next," said Copeland Mercier, who divides her time between Atlanta and Asheville, N.C. But the grand plan is even bigger. "The goal is to alter the U.S.A." she said.

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HEADLINE	11/08 WA city most stressful to drive in?
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/3702715/washington-city-complains-stressed-roads-twitter/
GIST	<p>The city of Seattle ranks number five nationally as one of the most stressful cities to drive in.</p> <p>According to a study from HiRoad Insurance, drivers in Portland, Ore. complain the most about driving more than any other city. An estimated 47.6% of tweets about driving showed some level of stress in Portland. Seattle comes in with the fifth-most stressed drivers, with 45.4% of tweets indicating anxiety.</p>

[Washington state has some of the most aggressive drivers in the nation, according to study](#)

The anxiety levels were measured through a program called [TensiStrength](#), an AI tool that detects stress levels in short pieces of text based on indicators like word choice and punctuation.

HiRoad says “Based on 1.3 million tweets related to driving by people who are geotagged in the USA. Tweets were measured as a percentage of ‘stressed’ tweets according to TensiStrength. Analysis performed in May 2022.”

Seattle also is ranked seventh for the worst traffic in the country according to the study.

Here are the top 10:

1. Portland, OR 47.6%
2. Chicago, IL 46%
3. New York City, NY 45.7%
4. Washington, DC 45.6%
5. Seattle, WA 45.4%
6. Philadelphia, PA 45%
7. San Francisco, CA 44%
8. Oakland, CA 43.8%
9. Phoenix, AZ 43.2%
10. Providence, RI 42.9%

So, what are drivers stressed out about on Twitter?

1. Rain
2. Bad weather
3. Snow
4. Drivers using cell phones
5. Traffic
6. Fog
7. Potholes
8. Cyclists
9. Drivers speeding
10. Drivers swerving

Part of the study also revealed the most ‘whined about highways’ in the country, with Interstate 90 in Chicago being the most stressful.

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You can read more about the study [here](#).

HEADLINE	11/09 Oldest known written sentence discovered
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/nov/09/oldest-known-written-sentence-discovered-on-a-head-lice-comb
GIST	<p>It’s a simple sentence that captures the hopes and fears of modern-day parents as much as the bronze age Canaanite who owned the doubled-edged ivory comb on which the words appear.</p> <p>Believed to be the oldest known sentence written in the earliest alphabet, the inscription on the luxury item reads: “May this tusk root out the lice of the hair and the beard.”</p> <p>Unearthed in Lachish, a Canaanite city state in the second millennium BCE and the second most important city in the kingdom of Judah, the comb suggests that humans have endured lice for thousands of years and that even the wealthiest were not spared the grim infestations.</p>

“The inscription is very human,” said Prof Yosef Garfinkel, an archaeologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who helped direct the Lachish excavations. “You have a comb and on the comb you have a wish to destroy lice on the hair and beard. Nowadays we have all these sprays and modern medicines and poisons. In the past they didn’t have those.”

The comb, which measures 3.5cm by 2.5cm, was discovered at the site in 2017, but the shallow engravings on the surface were only spotted in December last year. Analysis of the markings confirmed the writing to be Canaanite script, the earliest alphabet, which was invented about 3,800 years ago.

Efforts to obtain an age for the comb from carbon dating proved futile, but researchers believe it was made around 1700 BCE. The comb is worn and has lost its teeth, but the remaining stumps show that it once bore six widely spaced teeth for removing hair tangles on one side, and 14 narrowly spaced teeth for removing lice and eggs on the other.

Further evidence for the comb’s purpose came when researchers examined it under a microscope and identified the tough outer membranes of half millimetre-long nymph stages of head lice.

The letters on the comb spell out seven words that form the first completely deciphered sentence in a Canaanite dialect, written in Canaanite script, said the researchers in the Jerusalem Journal of Archaeology.

Ancient combs were made from wood, bone and ivory, but the latter would have been expensive, imported luxuries. There were no elephants in Canaan at the time.

The world’s first writing systems originated in Mesopotamia and Egypt around 3200 BCE, but these were not alphabetic. They relied on hundreds of different signs to represent words or syllables and as such required years to master, said Christopher Rollston, professor of northwest Semitic languages at George Washington University in the US.

The earliest alphabet was invented around 1800 BCE by Semitic-speaking people who were familiar with the Egyptian writing system, said Rollston. Known as Canaanite or early alphabetic the system was used for hundreds of years, particularly in the Levant, and was standardised by the Phoenicians in ancient Lebanon. It went on to become the foundation for ancient Greek, Latin and most modern languages in Europe today.

“The fact that this inscription is about ordinary life is especially fascinating,” Rollston said.

“Throughout human history lice have been a perennial problem. And this inscription nicely reveals that even the rich and famous in ancient times were not exempt from such problems. We can only hope that this inscribed comb was useful in doing that which it says it was supposed to do – root out some of these pesky insects.”

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HEADLINE	11/09 Oil, gas facilities under-report emissions
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/09/oil-and-gas-greenhouse-emissions-three-times-higher-than-producers-claim
GIST	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas facilities around the world are about three times higher than their producers claim, new data has shown.</p> <p>Climate Trace, a project to measure at source the true levels of carbon dioxide and other global heating gases, published a new report on Wednesday showing that half of the 50 largest sources of greenhouse gases in the world were oil and gas fields and production facilities.</p> <p>Many are underreporting their emissions, and there are few means of calling them to account.</p>

Oil and gas production can leak methane, and the gas is also frequently flared intentionally, ostensibly for safety reasons but sometimes for convenience. Atmospheric levels of [methane, a greenhouse gas](#) about 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide, have been rising strongly in recent years, but [countries' reported emissions of the gas have been found to be much lower](#) than the reality.

The “shocking” under-reporting of emissions is a big problem in trying to tackle the climate crisis, according to Al Gore, former vice-president of the US, a founding member of the Climate Trace coalition. “We can only manage what we can measure,” Gore told the Guardian at [Cop27](#) in Egypt. “Climate Trace is the neighbourhood watch for the globe.”

Under the UN system, countries are responsible for reporting their own greenhouse gas emissions. Gore said: “There are some inherent vulnerabilities in a self-reporting framework. If there is a bad actor, who doesn’t want to report, or if there is a brand name company that wants to sell its high emitting asset through a dark private equity group, it disappears from the self-reporting framework. But we still see it because we have empirical data. So we can help them protect against cheating.”

He gave the example of Saudi Arabia. “Saudi Arabia has reported its oil and gas production emissions. We have measured them empirically and we find a huge gap, that the emissions are larger than those that have been reported,” he said. “When we look more carefully at the emissions we find from their refining centre, it turns out that the volume of emissions from their refining centre, that have not been reported, exactly match the [amount] by which their reported admissions are undercounted. Now, was that an oversight on their part? Was it a mistake? Maybe. Not for me to say.”

Climate Trace uses evidence from satellites, remote sensors and other sources to monitor emissions globally, using artificial intelligence to build a clear picture of emissions sources around the world. The group’s database provides emissions information from 2015 to 2021 for all countries that are party to the Paris agreement, which encompasses all world nations apart from a handful of failed states.

None of those nations have yet submitted to the UN a full account of their greenhouse gases for 2021, and 52 countries have not submitted any emissions inventories covering the last 10 years.

Oil and gas companies were the worst of all sectors for under-reporting emissions, said Gore. “For the oil and gas sector it is consistent with their public relations strategy and their lobbying strategy. All of their efforts are designed to buy themselves more time before they stop destroying the future of humanity.”

He pointed to ExxonMobil, which [was discovered to have disguised what it knew about global heating](#). “They engaged in industrial scale lying to publics around the world, even though they had information of their own notifying them that they were being dishonest. I do think that they have committed the moral equivalent of war crimes,” he said.

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HEADLINE	11/09 Climate change data catalogs polluters
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/09/climate/climate-change-emissions-satellites.html
GIST	<p>Upstream from Shanghai along the Yangtze River, a sprawling factory complex in eastern China is churning out tens of millions of tons of steel a year — and immense quantities of planet-warming gases.</p> <p>The plant’s owner has not disclosed how much the site emits. Now, though, researchers say that by peering down from space, they have found that the factory’s emissions are likely higher than those of any other steel plant on Earth.</p> <p>Here’s how they did it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1-Satellites detect the hottest areas on a given day.2-Years of heat detections are analyzed to determine each plant’s hot spots.3-All values within hot spots on a given day are used to estimate steel production.4-Plant-level production estimates allow researchers to approximate plant-level emissions.

Their estimates are part a new global compendium of emissions released on Wednesday by [Climate TRACE](#), a nonprofit coalition of environmental groups, technology companies and academic scientists. By using software to scour data from satellites and other sources, Climate TRACE says it can project emissions not just for whole countries and industries, but for individual polluting facilities. It catalogs steel and cement factories, power plants, oil and gas fields, cargo ships, cattle feedlots — 72,612 emitters and counting, a hyperlocal atlas of the human activities that are altering the planet’s chemistry.

Scientists have been measuring atmospheric concentrations of [carbon dioxide](#), [methane](#) and other greenhouse gases for decades. They know how much average levels are rising worldwide, and they know that burning of fossil fuels is the main driver. It’s when they try to apportion the blame more precisely — How much are specific industries and companies emitting? In which countries? — that things get complicated.

Governments and organizations don’t have monitoring devices strapped to every smokestack and tailpipe, so they generally project emissions using measures of activity: how much coal is burned, how much steel is produced, how much traffic is on the roads. Such estimates aren’t always precise, however, and it can be tricky to avoid double counting.

Satellites from NASA and its Japanese and Chinese counterparts can measure amounts of greenhouse gases in the column of air beneath them, but clouds and nighttime darkness obstruct their observations. And satellite measurements don’t directly indicate where or when the gases were emitted. Gases mix and get blown around by weather. They linger in the sky for years, even centuries.

The United Nations asks countries to report emissions to guide global climate talks, like this month’s climate summit in Egypt. But tallying it all up is a challenge for many governments, let alone for the companies and cities that are setting their own climate goals.

“The whole future of our ability to address climate change, and to avoid the most dangerous effects, hinges on our ability to have solid data,” said Angel Hsu, an environmental policy expert at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “We need to be able to measure things so we can manage them.”

Climate TRACE says it can produce emissions estimates that are more up-to-date than existing ones, and that rely less on information reported by governments about their own countries’ emissions. It does this largely by mining satellite imagery and other data to get a more precise measure of individual facilities’ production activity, then estimating their emissions.

With steel plants, for instance, the group uses satellite measurements of the heat from blast furnaces to estimate steel output. (The owner of the steel plant in China, Shagang Group, declined to comment.) For power stations, Climate TRACE uses satellite images of the vapor wafting from their chimneys to predict electricity generation.

The group’s analysis suggests that the oil and gas industry emits far more than countries have previously reported, in part because of underestimated emissions from [flaring](#), or the burning of unwanted methane, and the [large gas leaks](#) known as “[super-emitter events](#).” In other sectors, though, Climate TRACE’s estimates broadly align with existing ones, said one of the group’s researchers, Gavin McCormick.

Having site-by-site data on emissions clarifies how much global warming could be mitigated just by reducing the carbon footprints of the largest polluters, Mr. McCormick said. Climate TRACE has begun working with six regional governments in Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Spain and Italy to provide information about local emissions, said one of the group’s funders, former Vice President Al Gore.

More granular data can also help businesses compare suppliers to minimize their climate footprint, said Simon Fischweicher, who is the head of corporations and supply chains for the North America division of CDP, a nonprofit that collects information about companies’ environmental impact.

“We know we have a climate crisis; we don’t need emissions accounting to tell us that,” he said. “The emissions accounting tells us where the decisions need to be made, what actions need to be taken.”

Climate TRACE’s other backers include the partners of Generation Investment Management, a firm started by Mr. Gore; Google’s philanthropic arm; and the charitable foundations of Eric Schmidt, the former chief executive of Google, and his wife, Wendy, and John Doerr, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist, and his wife, Ann. Among Climate TRACE’s collaborators is Minderoo Foundation, which was founded by the Australian iron-ore magnate Andrew Forrest.

Mr. McCormick said Climate TRACE had “zero plans” to commercialize.

As befits its tech roots, the group has released its data and methods to the public before submitting them for scientific peer review, a process that can take years. Mr. McCormick said he and his collaborators were planning to write an academic study based on their work soon.

Why didn’t they do that before? “Because the world is on fire,” Mr. McCormick said. “We’re firm believers in double-checking everything, but not a believer in, ‘wait years before you publish.’”

This approach has made some scientists wary. Jocelyn Turnbull, a scientist at GNS Science, a government research institute in New Zealand, said Climate TRACE still had “a ways to go” in demonstrating the quality of its data, though she described the project as “exciting.” Dr. Turnbull helps lead an initiative at the World Meteorological Organization that helps scientists supply governments with information about emissions.

Philippe Ciais, a researcher at the Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences near Paris, helps lead Carbon Monitor, a project that tracks daily carbon dioxide emissions. He called Climate TRACE’s methods “very promising.” But, he said, “everything which is not peer reviewed, I would be skeptical.”

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Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	11/08 Convicted Americans Ghosn escape return
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/business-japan-prisons-tokyo-massachusetts-5af7a522367147f5d2224ab929010f54
GIST	<p>TOKYO (AP) — An American father and son convicted in Japan on charges of helping Nissan former Chairman Carlos Ghosn escape to Lebanon, hiding in a box, have been returned to the U.S., their lawyer said Tuesday.</p> <p>Michael Taylor, a former Green Beret, was sentenced in July last year in Tokyo District Court to two years in prison, while his son Peter Taylor was sentenced to one year and eight months.</p> <p>They were convicted of helping a criminal for their involvement in the December 2019 escape of Ghosn, who had been awaiting trial on various financial misconduct charges, including under-reporting his compensation.</p> <p>The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in May 2020, and extradited to Japan in March 2021, though they fought against deportation to Japan.</p> <p>The U.S. and Japan have an extradition treaty, while Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan. Ghosn is French-Brazilian of Lebanese ancestry.</p> <p>The U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons online site lists Michael Taylor as at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles and set for release Jan. 1, 2023.</p>

	<p>Paul V. Kelly, the lawyer for the Taylors, said by email that he was in talks with parole officials about an earlier release. Peter Taylor has already been released, and is back with his family in Massachusetts, said Kelly, whose office is based in Boston.</p> <p>The Japanese Justice Ministry declined comment. Nissan had no comment.</p> <p>During their trial in Tokyo, Michael and Peter Taylor apologized and acknowledged guilt, saying they had been misled by Ghosn. They denied they had benefited monetarily because the payment just covered expenses.</p> <p>Ghosn, who led Nissan Motor Co. for two decades, says he is innocent. He says he fled because he could not expect a fair trial in Japan.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 Reality of the REAL ID
SOURCE	https://fraudoftheday.com/immigration-fraud/the-reality-of-the-real-id/
GIST	<p>Adrian Joseph of St. Lucia has been living the life in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The life of someone else. For twenty years! The individual, whose identity Joseph used, informed the government that his identity documents were stolen in the late 1990s. But that didn't stop Joseph from getting multiple fraudulent identity documents to sustain his fake identity.</p> <p>Using his stolen identity, Joseph has obtained from various governmental agencies identity documents, including a U.S. passport, a Social Security Account Number card, a City of Bridgeport voting registration card, and a Connecticut driver's license from the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles ("CT DMV").</p> <p>And as if our fraudster hadn't obtained enough identity documents, in February 2020, Joseph visited the CT DMV in Norwalk and successfully applied for and received a REAL ID driver's license under the name of his stolen identity. He had all the documents! He just needed a utility bill to required to prove his residence. The REAL ID legislation was in response to the recommendations made by the 9/11 commission to reform the U.S. Intelligence community and to implement other security measures to prevent future terrorist attacks against the U.S. In short, the purpose of REAL ID is to make our identity documents more consistent and secure. The reality of REAL ID appears to be something different. Maybe some identity verification services would be a good addition to this process.</p> <p>Under the Joseph pleaded guilty to one count of use of a passport secured by a false statement, and one count of false representation of a social security account number and was given a nine-month prison sentence, which he served awaiting trial. He now faces deportation proceedings.</p> <p>Shout out to the U.S. Department of state who investigated this case.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Arrest: Jackson MS string of 7 arson fires
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/11/08/jackson-mississippi-arson-fires-black-churches/8309304001/
GIST	<p>Authorities say a suspect was arrested Tuesday in a string of fires that were deliberately set across Jackson, Mississippi that left two historically Black churches damaged — including one that was completely destroyed.</p> <p>Hinds County Sheriff's Office deputies say the arson suspect, Delvin McLaurin, was arrested after seven fires were intentionally set early Tuesday morning in the area of Jackson State University, a historically Black public university.</p> <p>A spokesperson for the Jackson Police Department said he is being charged with felony malicious mischief. He is being questioned by the FBI and may face additional charges.</p>

The locations of the seven fires were:

- Greater Bethlehem Temple Church at 1505 Robinson Road
- Epiphany Lutheran Church at 1230 Isaiah Montgomery Street
- Baseball Field on Jackson State University campus
- Gas Station on Terry Road
- Central Street and Dalton
- 1101 Pascagoula Street
- Terry Road and Cherry Street

Officials started to receive calls about several fires starting around 2:45 a.m. Officials said six of the seven fires were put out by 6 a.m. Epiphany Lutheran Church, one of the oldest predominately Black Lutheran churches in Mississippi, burned for more than four hours before the fire was extinguished.

Lloyd Caston, 73, an elder at Epiphany, was awoken around 4 a.m. by a call from a family member who lives in the church's neighborhood. Alerted to the fire, he left his home and arrived at the church around 4:30 a.m. to find the building "fully enflamed."

"I was hurt," Caston said as he thought back to seeing the church on fire.

The fire department was on the scene attempting to put out the fire when Caston arrived. He stayed about an hour and left before the fire was extinguished. "There wasn't nothing we could do but sit and watch," Caston said. "That was it."

"It destroyed the church and everything in it," Caston said. The church is 85 years old, and renovations to the building's interior had just been completed in March.

The fire at Greater Bethlehem Temple Church also left damage. Ervin Ricks, communications director for the church, told [ABC 16](#) the area of the church that housed Sunday school for children was damaged in the blaze.

"We can't always understand why people do evil, but we know that it's our job. It's our job to overcome evil with good. That's why we're committed to continue to help this community," [Ricks told the outlet.](#)

Patrick Armon, assistant Jackson fire chief, said he received the news about the fires around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. Jackson police, investigating the crimes as arson, identified McLaurin as a suspect. Police spokesman Sam Brown said McLaurin was in the area of the fires during the hours they were set.

The city and police department posted his image on social media, and they warned that the suspect was considered dangerous but not armed. He was captured several hours later.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said at Tuesday's city council meeting that the fires are "believed to be arson."

Responding to speculation that the timing may be election related Lumumba said, "it is too early in the investigation to know what the motive may be."

No polling places were affected, Armon said.

Democratic congressional candidate Shuwaski Young of District 3 released a statement early Tuesday morning, calling the fires acts of "terrorism."

"This morning several churches were burned in Jackson, Mississippi on Election Day," the statement read. "These cowardly actions invoke historical acts of terrorism when people are fighting for their right to vote and live peacefully as Americans and Mississippians. We will not be deterred and will not be intimidated."

	<p>We will not allow domestic terrorists to suppress our right to vote. I ask all Mississippians to go vote regardless of this decades old intimidation tactic to suppress our votes today. Just go vote."</p> <p>Jackson officials did not connect the fires with an attempt to affect Tuesday's election.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Seattle Central District shooting: 2 injured
SOURCE	https://spdblotter.seattle.gov/2022/11/08/two-injured-in-tuesday-night-central-district-shooting/
GIST	<p>Police are investigating after two people were shot and wounded Tuesday night in the Central District.</p> <p>At 8:56 p.m., police responded to the intersection of East Alder Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way for reports of a shooting. A witness reported four people were shooting at each other in the street.</p> <p>Arriving officers found two victims with gunshot wounds – a 24-year-old woman and a 27-year-old man. Seattle Fire Department Medics transported both victims to Harborview Medical Center in stable condition.</p> <p>Police found multiple residences in the area with ballistic damage, and officers collected approximately two dozen spent shell casings.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/08 Cartel emergent weaponry use
SOURCE	https://www.hstoday.us/featured/improvised-anti-vehicle-land-mines-iavm-in-mexico-cartel-emergent-weaponry-use/
GIST	<p>The use of anti-vehicle land mines by criminal cartels is now part of Mexico's violent criminal landscape. This phase of improvised explosive devices represents an escalation of improvised explosive device (IED) use against state forces and criminal rivals. Essentially, improvised land (anti-vehicle) mines are being deployed for defensive purposes. That is, they are used to protect small urban enclaves under cartel control from Mexican Federal forces (police and military) and rival cartels or <i>autodefensas</i> (self-defense forces). The <i>Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación</i> (CJNG) is at the center of these defensive measures used to blunt offensive actions by their rivals.</p> <p><i>IAVMs: A New Trend?</i></p> <p>In our recent article at Counter-IED Report, we identified improvised cartel use of improvised anti-vehicle mines (IAVMs) in both Michoacán (by the CJNG or <i>Cárteles Unidos</i> – CU) and in Tamaulipas – a Northern state bordering Texas – by unspecified <i>huachicoleros</i> (fuel thieves) from the rival <i>Cártel del Golfo</i> (Gulf cartel – CDG) or <i>Cártel del Noreste</i> (Northeast cartel – CDN).</p> <p>Five IAVM incidents have been documented. These incidents are summarized below and in Table 1. The incidents occurred between January 2021 and February 2022. An additional incident in September 2021 has been mentioned, but not confirmed. That unconfirmed incident apparently involved a man who stepped onto a possible anti-personnel mine. Additional unverified incidents have been suggested but not confirmed. The five documented incidents are briefly summarized below.</p> <p><i>Incident No 1: Undisclosed Urban Area. Michoacán (2 January 2021)</i></p> <p>This incident occurred in an area contested by the <i>Cárteles Unidos</i> (CU) and <i>Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación</i> (CJNG). The incident was captured on security camera video. The video shows a CJNG Improvised Armored Fighting Vehicle (IAFV) driving down the street while taking small-arms fire and possibly responding with small-arms fire from its mounted infantry compartment. As the IAFV passes the center of the security camera footage, an explosive device – presumed to be a CU IAVM (Improvised Anti-Vehicle Mine) – is detonated.</p> <p><i>Incident No 2: Peña Blanca Area, Tamaulipas (5 October 2021)</i></p> <p>This incident occurred during morning hours in Comales, Tamaulipas, at the access point for Santa Rosalía de Camargo Gas Collection Station – a <i>Petróleos Mexicanos</i> (Pemex) facility – on the road from Peña</p>

Blanca. News reports state the device involved a booby trap combining *ponchallantas* (road spikes or caltrops) on the highway with an active IED (composed of explosive-filled PVC pipe and a 40mm grenade next to it) hidden in the bushes a few meters away. It was speculated that some form of trigger/detonation link – such as an electronic wire – sent a signal to the IED once a vehicle passed over the *ponchallantas*. The area involved is the site of ongoing engagements (involving artisanal armored vehicles or IAVFs) between the CGG and CDN.

Incident No 3: Apatzingán, Michoacán (31 January 2022)

This incident occurred at approximately 1030 hours (10:30 am) when a [Ejército Mexicano \(Mexican Army\) convoy drove over a land mine](#) while traversing a dirt road near Apatzingán. The vehicle involved was reportedly a ‘Sandcat’ light armored vehicle (LAV). At least one and up to four additional soldiers were said to be injured. The incident occurred in an area contested by the *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación* (CJNG) and the *Cárteles Unidos* (CU). While it remains unknown if the *Ejército Mexicano* (Mexican Army) convoy was explicitly targeted or the target was one of the competing cartels contesting the area, the direct attack against state forces is strategically significant.

Incident No 4: El Aguaje, Michoacán (12 February 2022)

This incident occurred in a small hamlet, El Aguaje, located between Tepalcatepec and Aguililla, Michoacán. A 79-year-old farmer and his passenger, his 45-year-old son, were killed when he drove his truck over a land mine (IAVM). The area is contested by the *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación* (CJNG) and *Cárteles Unidos* (CU) fighting over it, with the local CU faction, *Los Viagras*, fighting against CJNG. It has not been confirmed if the target of the attack was an opposing cartel – either CJNG or CU – or if the target were SEDENA or other state security personnel. The farmer and his son, as civilians (non-combatants), were not the intended target of the land mine.

Incident No 5: Greater Tepalcatepec and Aguililla Region, Michoacán (Mid-February 2022-Early April 2022)

This incident exemplifies the ongoing demining campaign by SEDENA’s Army (*Ejército Mexicano*) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units. These missions are often supported by *Secretaría de Seguridad Pública de Michoacán* (SSP–Michoacán) and *Guardia Nacional* (GN) personnel. The ongoing operation took place from mid-February 2022 through early April 2022 when this incident overview was written. Initial reports of 250 land mines/IAVMs cleared (demined) by late February 2022 have now risen to over 500 land mines/IAVMs potentially cleared (demined) by early April 2022.

Conclusion

In an earlier [C-IED Report](#) (Spring-Summer 2021), we observed an absence of land mine use by Mexican cartels – specifically, we said there was an “absence of land mines; neither improvised or military grade anti-personnel or anti-vehicular land mines have been used by the cartels in Mexico.” Since then, these criminal armed groups (CAGs) have begun to use land mines (IAVMs) in their suite of tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs).

In addition, in our [Autumn 2022 C-IED Report](#), summarized here, we noted: “*The fielding of CJNG IAVMs is still very much in its entrepreneurial (experimental) phase as witnessed with their earlier shift in weaponized drone utilization from point detonation (one time drone use) to standoff bombardment (multiple-drone use) capabilities. The various CJNG IAVMs designs currently being produced are artisanal, likely utilizing different explosive mixtures, and with triggering mechanisms derived from pressure activation, cell phone (and/or radio signal), and possibly binary chemical reaction methods (as reported). The expectation is that some basic IAVM design(s) may become standardized or the cartel will at some point simply attempt to bring in and utilize foreign made military grade landmines instead.*”

While cartel land mine use is in the early experimental phase, the future use and proliferation of both anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines can’t be discounted. Nor should their use be over-emphasized. The experimental use of weaponry is part of the Mexican crime ecosystem (or [narcoscape](#)). In the past, we have seen experimental use of [car bombs](#) (IEDs and VBIEDs), [weaponized aerial drones](#), [improvised armored fighting vehicles](#), and [early indicators of IAVM](#) potentials. Such experimentation and [use of military TTPs](#) should be expected to continue. These trends are of concern not only to Mexican police and

	military, but also to law enforcement personnel throughout the Western Hemisphere and obviously to Customs and Border Protection personnel along the U.S.-Mexico border.
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HEADLINE	11/09 Climate activists target Australia gallery
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/nov/09/climate-activists-target-andy-warhols-campbells-soup-cans-at-australias-national-gallery
GIST	<p>Climate protesters have scrawled over one of the National Gallery of Australia's prized modern art pieces, Andy Warhol's Campbell's soup cans.</p> <p>Images released by the activists showed several blue scrawls across the work, called Campbell's Soup I, but it is understood the prints themselves were under glass frames and not damaged.</p> <p>The Stop Fossil Fuel Subsidies group said in a statement on Wednesday it wants the Australian government to end support for the oil, gas and coal industries.</p> <p>It said it was part of a global civil resistance network known as A22.</p> <p>Bonnie Cassen, who was named in the statement as being involved in the protest in Canberra, said Warhol depicted consumerism gone mad in the iconic series.</p> <p>"And now we have capitalism gone mad," she said. "Families are having to choose between medicine and food for their children while fossil fuel companies return record profits. And yet our government gives \$22,000 a minute in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry."</p> <p>One person sought to glue themselves to one of the paintings but was quickly removed before the glue set.</p> <p>The incident comes after similar protests involving famous artworks overseas, including a German environmental group throwing mashed potatoes at a Claude Monet painting in a Potsdam museum and activists from Just Stop Oil throwing tomato soup over Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers at the National Gallery in London.</p> <p>The gallery said in a statement: "A protest has taken place at the National Gallery of Australia following similar incidents elsewhere in Australia and overseas."</p> <p>"The national gallery does not wish to promote these actions and has no further comment."</p> <p>An ACT Policing spokesman said officers responded to an incident involving two people at the gallery, but no arrests had been made.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/09 Russia transfers Griner to penal colony
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/nov/09/brittney-griner-us-basketball-star-transferred-to-penal-colony
GIST	<p>US basketball star Brittney Griner was transferred last week from a detention center outside the Russian capital and is on her way to a penal colony, her legal team said on Wednesday.</p> <p>The two-time Olympic gold medalist was arrested on 17 February, a week before Russia sent troops into Ukraine, at a Moscow airport with vape cartridges containing cannabis oil, which is banned in Russia. The White House has called her detention "wrongful".</p> <p>She was sentenced on 4 August to nine years in a penal colony on charges of possessing and smuggling drugs.</p>

Early on Wednesday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre issued a statement saying: “Every minute that Brittney Griner must endure wrongful detention in Russia is a minute too long,” and added that the Biden administration “continues to work tirelessly to secure her release”.

Griner had pleaded guilty but said she had made an “honest mistake” and had not meant to break the law. She was visited by US officials earlier this month, after her appeal against her sentence was denied.

Neither Griner’s exact whereabouts nor her final destination were known, the legal team said in a statement, adding that in line with Russian procedures, her attorneys as well as the US embassy should be notified upon her arrival at her destination.

The notification would take up to two weeks to be received.

Jean-Pierre added that US president Joe Biden has directed his administration to “prevail on her Russian captors to improve her treatment and the conditions she may be forced to endure in a penal colony”. The statement did not give any details about Griner’s whereabouts.

The Biden administration in late July proposed a deal for a prisoner swap with Russia to secure her release, as well as that of former US marine Paul Whelan, but Moscow has yet to respond positively to the offer.

“Despite a lack of good faith negotiation by the Russians, the US government has continued to follow up on that offer and propose alternative potential ways forward with the Russians through all available channels,” Jean-Pierre said.

The souring of ties between Russia and the west has complicated the talks to secure Griner’s release.

“Our primary concern continues to be BG’s health and well-being,” Griner’s agent, Lindsay Colas, said in a separate statement, referring to the player by her initials.

“As we work through this very difficult phase of not knowing exactly where BG is or how she is doing, we ask for the public’s support in continuing to write letters and express their love and care for her,” Colas said.

She said Griner’s team remained in close contact with the US government as well as the Richardson Center, named after former US diplomat and New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, who has privately worked to secure the release of American detainees abroad.

Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, in an earlier statement, described Griner’s conditions as “intolerable” and the trial she had to go through as “another sham judicial proceeding”.

Whelan was convicted by Russia of spying and jailed for 16 years in 2020. He denies espionage and has said he was set up in a sting operation. Washington has demanded his release.

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HEADLINE	11/08 Seattle high school shooting: 1 killed
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/police-respond-to-report-of-shooting-at-north-seattle-school/
GIST	<p>A student was shot and killed Tuesday at Ingraham High School, inciting fear among students and drawing hundreds of parents to the school’s North Seattle campus.</p> <p>The suspect was arrested on a Metro bus about an hour after the gunfire rang out in a hallway during school hours Tuesday morning. Many details remained unclear hours later, but Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Brent Jones said the shooting appeared to be a “targeted attack” and that officials “have no reason to believe this was part of a bigger plan.”</p>

Classes at the school [have been canceled](#) for Wednesday and Thursday. The student who was killed has not yet been publicly identified.

“We have two families that have been impacted: Somebody that is going to jail and somebody that has lost their life,” Police Chief Adrian Diaz said in a news conference at City Hall.

Diaz said the department is reviewing security footage of the shooting, which took place about 100 feet from the nearest entrance, and that there were many witnesses in the school hallway.

“It wasn’t at the doorstep. It wasn’t at the front entrance. It was within the school environment,” Diaz said.

Officers entered the school after reports of shots fired, found the student suffering from a gunshot wound and aided the student until medics arrived, within about 10 minutes of emergency calls, according to police. The student later died despite lifesaving efforts, however.

Police recovered a gun from the suspect but said they couldn’t yet confirm whether it was the weapon used in the shooting. They declined to say whether the suspect was a fellow student, also noting a person on the bus with the suspect “does not appear” to be involved.

As word of the shooting began to spread, hundreds of parents began arriving at the school to pick up their children. They found a campus surrounded by police tape and swarming with officers.

Many parents and guardians were on their phones, updating worried family members. There were snacks and coffee, but tensions were high, and some parents waited two hours to be reunited with their kids.

One parent said her daughter was giving her text updates while she was in her classroom waiting to be picked up. Another woman rushed from work to pick up her cousin, who told her she was scared and hiding.

Students started being released from the building around 12:30 p.m. Tables were set up in alphabetical order out front, and staff yelled out one last name at a time.

Madeleyne De Leon, an Ingraham student, said she was walking with two friends to gym class when she got a call from another friend. “There were shots. Get away from the school as fast as possible,” he said, and hung up.

De Leon, 14, and her friends ran from the school to a nearby grocery store parking lot, where they waited for their parents to pick them up.

The shooting happened in the passing time before second period, she said.

“I’m really scared, but I’m glad most people are OK. I’m OK and with my family right now,” she said. “It’s a lot to process.”

About 15 minutes after Leanna Sparks learned there had been a shooting at the school her two sons attend, she got a text from her 14-year-old saying he had heard gunshots.

“It’s like my worst nightmare come true,” she said.

While her sons waited inside their classrooms for police to visit each room, her sons were “scared [and] worried about who got hurt,” she said. “They want to get out, they don’t want to go back to school ... until we figure out what’s going on.”

Sparks, who has lived in the neighborhood for 12 years, is now considering home schooling her two children. She had already prepared them for what to do if they ever heard shots: Hide, she told them, and don’t be a hero.

Fred Jala, whose child is a sophomore at Ingraham, said he's feeling lots of emotions: "scared for my student's safety, sadness for the victim, sadness for the students for being so close to violence, anger at gun culture and its enablers."

Bernard Richard Hall, whose 15-year-old son is an Ingraham sophomore, was also among parents searching for answers Tuesday morning.

Hall learned of the shooting through an email from the school district. Wanting more information, he drove to the school. As he stood in the parking lot waiting for an update, while the school remained on lockdown and most students remained inside, Hall covered his face with a tissue and wiped tears from his eyes.

"You hear about it in the news all the time," Hall said. "Maybe it's cliché but it's different when it happens to you."

Matteo Griffin said his wife, Heather, is a consulting teacher for the school district and mentors new teachers. Griffin had been talking with her since moments after the school's lockdown was announced. She was holding a one-on-one meeting, with no students around, when the shooting happened.

While Griffin's wife needed to remain on the campus during the lockdown, he was volunteering in the auditorium to help students connect with their parents.

"There will come a time this evening when she needs to process this and then there will be many tears," Griffin said.

Tuesday evening, about 40 people gathered inside the Haller Lake United Methodist Church sanctuary for a vigil honoring the student who was killed.

Michael Ramos, executive director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, told mourners the sanctuary could serve as a space for them to heal from the day's violence and trauma.

"This neighborhood is meant to be a safe place for everyone, especially children and students," he said, asking them to pray for grieving family members and those whose security was violently disrupted.

Ingraham is one of the city's 18 public high schools, and its attendance area stretches from the north end of Green Lake to the city's northern border, and to Puget Sound on the west. With an enrollment of about 1,462 students, it is one of the city's large, comprehensive high schools. In the last school year it had a graduation rate of 90%, according to state data.

Gov. Jay Inslee, who played on the school's state championship basketball team in 1968-69, is one of its most famous graduates.

"Thankful for Seattle Police being on the scene and helping to resolve this incident before the shooter had the chance to hurt more people," he said in a tweet. "Our children should never have to experience this. We can and must do better by them."

The North Seattle school offers the rigorous International Baccalaureate program, which allows high school students to earn college credit; it's one of only 13 such programs in Washington state. According to a school climate survey from the spring, about 83% of students responded favorably to questions about relationships and belonging, but only 62% responded favorably to questions about behavior and safety.

At least 271 gun incidents have occurred at K-12 schools across the U.S. this year, according to the [K-12 School Shooting Database](#), which tracks gun violence on school campuses. Such incidents include any time "a gun is brandished, is fired, or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number

	of victims, time, or day of the week.” More than 300 people were wounded or killed in those incidents, according to the database.
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HEADLINE	11/08 Germany: Russian money laundering probe
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/germany-banks-searched-money-laundering-probe-russian-92864524
GIST	<p>BERLIN -- Police raided two branches of Swiss bank UBS in Germany in connection with alleged money laundering by a Russian businessman, German officials and media said Tuesday.</p> <p>Frankfurt prosecutor Georg Ungefuk did not identify the suspect by name, but said the raids were connected to an investigation in which officials raided a luxury yacht and two dozen properties in Germany in September.</p> <p>German media cited Russian oligarch Alisher Usmanov, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin who is subject to U.S. and European Union sanctions, as the target in that operation.</p> <p>Ungefuk stressed that the bank was not under investigation. He said the raids were conducted to find possible evidence of money laundering by the suspect. He did not identify which bank was raided, but German news agency dpa reported that officers entered UBS branches in Frankfurt and Munich.</p> <p>“We confirm that searches by the public prosecutor are currently taking place at the premises of the UBS Europe SE branches in Frankfurt and Munich,” a bank spokesperson told dpa. “We are cooperating fully with the authorities and ask for your understanding that we cannot comment further on the matter at this time.”</p> <p>Officials said previously that the subject of their investigation was suspected of conducting several transactions between 2017 and 2022 that involved using a complex network of offshore companies to hide the origin of funds totaling millions of euros (dollars).</p>
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